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NO. 7551 MONDAY, MAY 8, 1989 SHAWAL 3, 1409 AH 18 PAGES 150 FILLS

## NEWSWATCH

### No Tornado

**KUWAIT, May 7.** The Army Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Muzeyd Al Sane has said that Kuwait has no plans to buy Tornado fighters at present because it has chosen other types of fighters. Speaking to press reporters at the end of a Holy Quran recitation competition organised by the Kuwaiti Army, Al Sane said that studies are being carried out to bolster Kuwait's Navy. He added that military co-operation among the GCC states have reached an advanced stage.

### New minister

**BAGHDAD, May 7.** (Reuters): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein named a new defence minister today to replace General Adnan Khairallah who was killed in a helicopter crash two days ago. A presidential decree announced on Baghdad television named the new minister as General Abdul Jabbar Shanshal, formerly minister of state for military affairs. It named no replacement for General Khairallah's other post as deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

### Ethnic killing

**KARACHI, May 7.** (Reuters): Gunmen spraying bullets from a car killed three men celebrating the start of a Muslim festival today in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city. Hospital staff said the three were members of the Mohajir National Movement and the killing was apparently a continuation of the ethnic violence plaguing Sindh province.

### Testing for AIDS

**ISLAMABAD, May 7.** (AP): Pakistan plans to begin testing all foreigners and Pakistanis who have lived abroad for AIDS, it was reported. English-language newspapers said Health Minister Halder Kazmi disclosed the new policy at a Friday night reception for Pakistani journalists.

### WHO meeting

**GENEVA, May 7.** (AP): The annual assembly of the World Health Organisation opens tomorrow with the stage apparently set for a showdown over Yasser Arafat's bid to have the PLO-declared state of Palestine become a full WHO member in a first step to win voting rights throughout the UN system.

### Death toll 21

### US storms

**NEW YORK, May 7.** (AP): Wind-driven rain and more tornadoes lashed North Carolina yesterday, as stunned residents throughout the southern state picked up the pieces from an earlier storm that left at least 21 people dead and hundreds homeless. One child was seriously injured when a tornado touched down in Rockingham county, North Carolina, but for the most part the new round of storms didn't measure up to the intensity of those the day before. Seventy-five thousand customers of Duke Power Co. remained without power, and company officials said it might be Monday before service was restored.

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## US troops will defend but avoid conflict with Philippine rebels

**MANILA, May 7.** (AP): US troops will defend themselves if attacked, but will avoid actions that would put them in direct conflict with Philippine communist rebels, the commander of US forces in the Pacific said on Friday. Adm. Huntington Hardisty, commander in chief of the US Pacific command, spoke during a breakfast meeting with reporters in Manila. On April 21, communist rebels killed US Army Col. James "Nick" Rowe as he was riding to work at the headquarters of the joint US military assistance group in a Manila suburb. The rebel New People's Army said it carried out the attack because of alleged US involvement in President Corazon Aquino's counterinsurgency campaign. Meanwhile, the military said they seized rebel documents on Thursday apparently calling for more killings of US military officials starting in June, the state-run Philippines news agency reported. It quoted police officials outside the US-run Clark Air Base, 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Manila, as saying the attacks are intended to "create a propaganda impact" for the rebels. Hardisty said Rowe's killing and threats against Americans were attempts by the rebels to grab headlines, but would not deter US support for the Aquino administration. "We remain steadfast in our commitment to a democratic government," Hardisty said. Hardisty arrived in Manila on Tuesday for a four-day visit, during which he attended the two-yearly meeting of the Philippine-US mutual defence board on Thursday. During the meeting, US officials said they were optimistic about concluding a new treaty on US military bases in the Philippines.

## Arafat's no to call for killings

### 'Stop massacre of Palestinians'

**TUNIS, May 7.** (Agencies): Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat today rejected a call by a top Iranian official to kill Americans, British and French in retaliation for the deaths of Palestinians at the hands of Israelis in the occupied territories. "I reject this call in its totality," Arafat told reporters in a post-midnight news conference

at PLO headquarters here. On Friday, Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani said: "If in retaliation for every Palestinian martyred in Palestine they will kill and execute, not inside Palestine, five Americans or Britons or Frenchmen, they (the Israelis) could not continue these wrongs." The PLO leader called on the international community and particularly the five permanent

members of the UN Security Council "to act rapidly to put an end to the crimes." "This is the response to my peace initiative that I announced on the tribune of the United Nations in Geneva (in December)," Arafat said. "These massacres come two days after my visit to France during which, with President Francois Mitterrand and the French government, we tried to advance the

peace process by all means." Asked if he planned to withdraw his peace initiative because of the deteriorating situation in the territories, Arafat said: "It is an initiative of the Palestine National Council and it is not up to me to modify it." Arafat said in an interview published in a Spanish magazine today that he longed to be an engineer again — in a new Palestinian state.



### Suffering Afghans

THE 11-year-old civil war in Afghanistan has left one million people maimed, 600,000 orphans and 6.5 million refugees, according to the president of the Kuwait-based Islamic Da'awa Committee, Majid Al Rifaa. An old Afghan kisses (above) his grandson on the head as they sit looking at thousands of graves of those killed in the war. The boy lost his parents in a rocket attack on Kabul. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Violent protests go on

### Israelis put 430,000 under curfew

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 7.** (Agencies): Israeli troops confined 430,000 Arabs to their homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip today after one of the most violent days of the Palestinian uprising. Arab hospitals in Gaza said troops shot and wounded eight people in continuing street protests today and a 23-year-old Rafah resident, Mahmoud Al Arja, who suffered from asthma, died from inhaling tear-gas. Chief Army spokesman Brigadier General Ephraim Lapid said Arab doctors told authorities Arja died of asthma and his death had no connection with the violence. Three Palestinian protesters were shot dead and at least 169

were wounded yesterday, the Eid day. It was one of the highest casualty tolls since the revolt against Israeli rule erupted almost 18 months ago. A total of 467 Palestinians and 20 Jews have died in the violence. Deputy spokesman Hashem Abu Sido of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Gaza said 400 Arabs were injured by gunfire, beatings or tear-gas inhalation yesterday. Lapid disputed the number of injured, putting the total at 77. He said residents of Nuseirat camp provoked the most serious violence when they "acted in an extreme fashion and sought a confrontation with our troops." Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir met three top ministers to review his proposals for elections in the territories to choose Palestinians to negotiate with Israel on a period of limited self-rule. The body of an Israeli paratrooper sergeant who was missing since Feb 16 was found today buried near the occupied Gaza Strip and Israeli officials said the soldier was killed by Palestinian commandos. A poll conducted among Israelis and published here yesterday shows that more than half of Israelis support using greater military force in the occupied territories and believe that the uprising can be suppressed by force.

### Tight security

## Tehran accused of inciting murder

**LONDON, May 7.** (Agencies): Britain, France and the United States yesterday accused Iran of inciting murder after Tehran called for an international terror campaign against Westerners. Britain yesterday tightened security at airports and said it would discuss the Iranian threat with its European and American allies.

The three Western countries, singled out as targets in an inflammatory speech Friday by Iran's Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, accused Tehran of an affront to civilised behaviour. Rafsanjani, once regarded as a moderate, urged Palestinians to kill five Americans, Britons or Frenchmen for every Arab slain in the Israeli-occupied territories. He called on Palestinians to hijack planes or blow up factories in Western countries "in order to swap prisoners in Israeli hands."

Britain's Home Office Minister Timothy Renton said he was sure all Muslims in Britain would reject Rafsanjani's call with scorn and despair. In Washington, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater on Friday denounced the comments as "another step backwards for Iran from the community of civilised nations" and said the United States held the Iranian leadership responsible for any attacks on American interests or citizens.

In Beirut, an Arab government source said the US, Britain and France were discussing "possible military retaliatory action" against Iran, if any of their citizens dies as a result of Rafsanjani's comments. The source told the United Press International that his country near the Gulf was briefed on the talks, but he did not elaborate.

### Khamenei backs Rafsanjani endorsed

**NICOSIA, May 7.** (AP): Iran's outgoing President Ali Khamenei today endorsed Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani to succeed him, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. Khamenei also backed constitutional reforms that are expected to give the president more executive power, the agency, monitored in Nicosia, said. It quoted Khamenei as telling a crowd of worshippers in Tehran, "fortunately, the people's attention has been naturally drawn to one of the most prominent faces of the Islamic republic."



### Amir receiving well-wishers

HH the Amir received well-wishers (above) at the Seif Palace, just after offering Eid prayers at the Grand Mosque. HH the Crown Prince and Premier is also seen receiving people. (See page 8)

## Battle of Beirut rages with fury

### Renewed shelling buries Arab League truce

**BEIRUT, May 7.** (Agencies): Warring Lebanese and Syrians plunged Beirut back into a firestorm of shelling today, burying a short-lived Arab League ceasefire under rubble and blood. At least four people were killed and 30 wounded as the artillery duels between Christian forces, Syrians and their local militia allies resumed with full frenzy, hitting all areas of Beirut and about 50 outlying towns.

Two shells slammed into the building housing the Reuters office in West Beirut, wounding two people and starting a fire. Children's screams pierced the smoke choking two floors of the building. "My mother, my mother. Please help her. Our house is burning," screamed a six-year-old girl from a nearby apartment block.

Cordite fumes hung in the air as frightened-looking relief workers in flak jackets dashed through the streets, littered with the debris of nearly two months of fighting. A man wounded by shrapnel when a shell struck his home ran from the ruins with his baby boy. Bleeding from the arm and back, he handed the infant to a neighbour then ran back into the house to help his wife.

Columns of black smoke billowed from the Muslim West and Christian East. One of the fires blazed at a paint factory in the Christian sector. Many of the wounded in West Beirut were taken to Makkassed Hospital, where doctors and nurses rushed casualties to operating theatres as relatives sobbed in the corridors. One man whose 12-month-old daughter was among the injured wept as he described the destruction of his home.

"We were sleeping when suddenly the roof caved in over us and we all were covered with rubble. My children begged me to save them, but I was trapped under debris. "What do they want from us?" he sobbed, referring to the combatants. "I beg them to leave these suffering people alone. Stop, stop, we have had enough."

The Arab League ceasefire declared nine days ago reduced the intensity of the fighting which flared in mid-March but an artillery barrage last night signalled that all pretence at a truce was over. At least nine people were killed overnight. In Damascus, Syrian Defence Minister Lieut. Gen. Mustafa Tlass accused Iraq of providing weapons and military experts to aid Christian troops in Lebanon's civil war, the Syrian daily newspaper Tishrin reported today.

It said Tlass made the charge during a visit to a Syrian military unit in Lebanon yesterday. France today appealed to warring factions in Lebanon to observe a shattered ceasefire and allow an Arab observer force to carry out its peace mission. Political analysts said the intensified shelling on the weekend was a deliberate bid by Syria and its allies to prevent the deployment of Arab League ceasefire observers.

In Tunis, Arab League officials met today to discuss the latest fighting, which League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi described as tragic and regrettable. Sources close to the League said the group planned to send two envoys to Beirut and Damascus within days. The League has proposed deploying about 300 ceasefire observers, but has said they will be sent only after the guns fall silent.

At the Christian port of Joughieh north of Beirut, some 400 panic-stricken Christians boarded motor launches last night to reach a ferry shuttling between Lebanon and Cyprus.

### PLO hopeful

## German 'to be freed'

**BEIRUT, May 7.** (Reuters): A top Palestinian official said today a West German relief worker reported kidnapped in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon would probably be freed soon. Zeid Wehbeh, the PLO representative in Lebanon, told Visnews television news agency that the man whom he named as Marcus Quint, "will be in our hands in a few hours."

He said Palestinian groups were doing their best to find the 24-year-old man, reported kidnapped on Thursday with two other West German workers for the Asme Humanitas relief agency. The other two, who said they were released on Friday, told security authorities the kidnappers had threatened to kill their colleague unless an Arab held in a Cypriot jail was released.

On Friday the West German Foreign Ministry expressed scepticism at reports of the kidnapping. A spokesman said the two workers who reappeared on Friday, Heinrich Struebig, 48, and Petra Schnitzler, 26, disappeared briefly last year and said later they had been kidnapped. In Bonn, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the kidnappers had made no direct contact with the government. He said a ministry crisis team was handling the abduction but declined to speculate on why Quint was seized.

Italy's supreme court on Friday confirmed a life sentence imposed in his absence on Palestinian leader Abu Nidal for a 1985 commando attack on Rome airport which killed 16 people.

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Relatives of six policemen who died in a police raid on student radicals cling to each other in their grief at a funeral in Pusan, South Korea. (Reuters wirephoto)

Public funeral held in Pusan

## Six policemen buried

SEOUL, May 7. (AP): Six police officers who died last week in a violent campus clash were buried today as martyrs after a nationally televised public funeral.

As Buddhist monks hummed funeral sutras, Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon heralded the six as "patriotic martyrs who died for democracy" and appealed to the nation for an end to violence.

The funeral was held at a police station in Pusan, about 320 kilometres (205 miles) southeast of Seoul, with coffins draped in national flags and laid behind an altar.

The six police officers died last Wednesday in a raid on Dongui University in Pusan to free five colleagues held hostage by radical students. Students poured paint thinner in a corridor and set it afire. Raging flames trapped riot troopers, killing six and critically injuring 11 others.

About 1,000 colleagues and relatives sobbed as Chung Moon-Duk, a family representa-

Gorbachev 'a reformer'

## No demo during visit

BEIJING, May 7. (Reuters): Students who twice paralysed Beijing with mass demonstrations say they are likely to refrain from protesting during the visit to China next week by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a man they champion as a communist reformer.

Gorbachev's historic visit marks a significant reduction in 30 years of tension between the two communist countries, and students said today that trouble during the visit would be a terrible loss of face for China.

"The visit is too important for our country," said a student at Teacher's University. "We are a patriotic, democratic movement so we would not do anything against our country."

Last Thursday tens of thousands of pro-democracy protesters paralysed the capital during a meeting of the Asian Development Bank, despite stern official warnings, and some activists suggested the same could happen again when the Soviet leader arrives on May 15.

"We reserve the right to protest during Gorbachev's visit, but our goal is not to demonstrate and we do not march just for fun," said a student leader from the central city of Xian who came to Beijing to meet activists.

tative, screamed in front of pictures of the dead adorned with chrysanthemum flowers after making furious funeral comments.

"Violent protests must vanish from our society, along with

firebombs and leftist forces," he said.

After the funeral, police said a hearse carrying the coffins draped in national flags marched across the southern port city before moving to a national cemetery.

Drinking suspended

## Polling begins in Panama

PANAMA CITY, May 7. (UPI): Panamanians turned out early today to vote in presidential, legislative and local elections, culminating an acrimonious campaign between opposition candidate Guillermo Endara, and Carlos Duque, the pro-government candidate.

Polls opened at 7:00 am (12:00 GMT) for the election of a president, two vice-presidents and other local representatives.

At the La Salle school in the downtown Panama City, hundreds of people lined up to vote at the voting table set up there.

Drinking and politicking were suspended in Panama yesterday as the country braced for the vote and the possible consequences of elections to be monitored by the international observers.

Nearly 2.2 million of Panama's 2.5 million people were expected to go to the polls.

In addition to choosing a president, Panamanians will elect two vice-presidents. The government leaders will take office Sept 1 for five-year terms. Also at stake are 67 legislative assembly seats and 510 local representative slots.

With both sides accusing the other of plotting fraud as the campaign ended, tension was palpable in the capital yesterday.

Shoppers fearing the outbreak of violence stocked up on food and other supplies at supermarkets.

Opposition leaders have vowed to stage peaceful demonstrations around the country tomorrow if they believe that fraud was committed, while pro-government groups have said they will not tolerate "traitors."

## Cult leader killed in gunbattle with police

High priestess captured

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, May 7. (AP): The ringleader of a drug-smuggling cult that killed 15 people was slain in a gunbattle with Mexico City police yesterday, and his girlfriend, the alleged "high priestess," was captured, police said.

Cameron county sheriff's Lt George Gavito said Mexican authorities told US investigators last night that cult leader Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo, 25, was killed and that police have arrested Sara Aldrete, a 24-year-old former Texas college student described as the "witch" of the cult.

The government-run Notimex news agency reported early today that unidentified officials in the attorney-general's office had confirmed the killing and the arrest.

Alleged cult member Martin Quintana Rodriguez also was killed in the shootout at a Mexico City residence about 4:30 pm, said Cameron county sheriff Alex Perez. Three other people believed to be cult members were also arrested.



## Magellan mission

Atlantis' five astronauts awoke to music from the movie "Rocky" on Sunday, the final full day of their space shuttle mission in which they deployed a planetary probe now bound for Venus.

The Magellan probe continued on its 15-month voyage to Venus at a rate of about 6,500 miles per hour (10,400 kilometres per hour). The spacecraft, launched from the shuttle's cargo bay on Thursday night, already had travelled more than 430,000 miles (692,000 kilometres) by early Sunday morning.

America's space shuttle astronauts earn between \$28,852 and \$68,000 per year but receive no additional overtime or hazardous duty pay for flying in space.

Picture shows the spacecraft Magellan move away from the space shuttle. (Reuters wirephoto)

Constanzo, the alleged "god-father," and Aldrete had been sought in an international manhunt and are believed to have masterminded the activities of the cult that killed 15 people in a series of ritualistic sacrifices and drug-related slayings.

Gavito said he spoke on the telephone with Aldrete, who is in police custody in Mexico City, for about five minutes last night, but he would not divulge details of the conversation.

The attorney-general's office in Mexico's federal district would not immediately confirm the story, but said he would discuss the details at a news conference today.

Constanzo and Aldrete had been charged with aggravated kidnapping by Cameron county authorities and are believed to have directed human sacrifices, mutilations and the boiling of brains and other organs in rituals to bring occult protection for their drug-smuggling ring.

The ring and its macabre activities were discovered when authorities unearthed 15 bodies buried west of the border city of Matamoros, Mexico, beginning on April 11.

Constanzo and Aldrete, missing since the first 12 bodies were uncovered on April 11, are among 11 people indicted in the United States on a four-count indictment.

Winery worker Ramon Salcido pleaded innocent on Friday to charges he murdered seven people including his wife and two children in a bloody rampage through northern California's bucolic wine country.

## Hall cripples electronic spying operations

NEW YORK, May 7. (UPI): Investigators have concluded that an Army warrant officer court-martialled this year for espionage crippled several electronic spying operations aimed at the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the New York Times reported today.

One programme rendered useless cost hundreds of millions of dollars and was designed to exploit a weak Soviet communications link uncovered in the late 1970s, the Times said.

The investigators' findings are based in part on statements by James Hall III, who has been co-operating with authorities.

Hall pleaded guilty in February to espionage and is serving a 40-year prison term.

"Without commenting on the specifics, it appears that Hall did very serious damage," Sen. David Boren, chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, told the Times.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cold N-fusion

TOKYO, May 7. (Reuters): A group of scientists in Pyongyang has succeeded in creating a nuclear fusion reaction at room temperature, North Korea's news agency said today.

The official agency, monitored in Tokyo, said the group "has released nuclear fusion reaction by electrolyzing heavy water with palladium and platinum poles applied in it, and confirmed ... a nuclear fusion reaction took place in indoor temperature."

A group of Turkish scientists also said on Wednesday that they had achieved fusion at room temperature but had not produced energy.

### 2 killed in gunfire

JAMMU, May 7. (AP): Four Sikh extremists stormed into a bank in the northern city of Jammu yesterday and sprayed the lobby with gunfire, killing two customers and seriously wounding two employees, police said.

Four young Sikhs came on two motorcycles and barged into the government-owned bank minutes after it opened for business, said city police chief Shobh Ali. After the shooting, which lasted about two minutes, the attackers fled on their motorcycles, Ali said.

### Needle found

SOIGNIES, Belgium, May 7. (AP): A needle was found in a baby food jar in Belgium, authorities said yesterday, raising fear that a British extortion threat might have spread to the continent. Belgian authorities, however, said it was agreed to be unrelated to the British case. A woman in Soignies told police she found the needle when she emptied the jar, containing chicken, rice, carrots and peas, in her baby's plate. She had bought the food of the trademark Nutricia in a supermarket in Soignies, 38 km (24 miles) southwest of Brussels.

### Bodies identified

NEW YORK, May 7. (UPI): Two small bodies pulled from Sheepshead Bay have been identified as those of young playmates who were last seen alive as they headed for the bay on a search for starfish, authorities said today.

Louis Miranda, 8, and Juan Lora, 3, the son of the former World Boxing Council heavyweight champion of the same name, were found dead yesterday, a full day after disappearing from outside the apartment building where both lived in Brooklyn.

### Pilot blamed

NEW DELHI, May 7. (UPI): An inquiry court has blamed the pilot for the October 1988 crash of an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 plane in western India that killed 132 people, the Press Trust of India news agency said today.

The court of inquiry was set up by the government to find out the cause of the Oct 19, 1988 crash of a Boeing-737 plane that plunged to earth as it approached the fog-shrouded Ahmedabad airport, 500 miles (800 km) southwest of New Delhi.

### Earthquake

BEIJING, May 7. (Reuters): A strong earthquake rocked a remote region of China near the Burmese border, toppling homes and cracking streets early today, the official New China news agency said.

The quake, measuring 6.3 on the open-ended Richter scale, was centred in Hepai and Sipishan in the southwestern province of Yunnan. No deaths or injuries were reported.

### Book sells out

ATHENS, May 7. (AP): A book released Friday with nude pictures of a woman purported to be Premier Andreas Papandreu's girlfriend is selling out at street kiosks around the capital.

The government spokesman would not comment on the book titled "Liani Supports Change," a pun referring to Papandreu's 35-year-old girlfriend and Dimitra Liani and the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement's (Pasok) slogan "people support change."

### Bus accident

NEW DELHI, May 7. (UPI): Nineteen people died and 35 suffered burns today after a crowded bus hit a harvester machine and caught fire in northern Punjab state, the Press Trust of India news agency said. The news agency said the accident occurred today morning near Ferozepore town, 220 miles (350 km) northwest of New Delhi, when a speeding state-run Punjab roadways bus crashed into a harvester machine parked along the roadway and rolled down into a low-lying area.

### Gas leak

NEW DELHI, May 7. (AP): Fumes of chlorine gas that leaked from a tanker enveloped parts of a densely populated suburb of New Delhi, affecting at least 207 persons, police said.

The gas leaked for two hours on Friday from one of the five chlorine drums being carried a fertilizer company's tanker, said a police official who could not be identified under briefing rules.

He said 207 people were admitted to six hospitals nearby after the accident at 8:30 pm (1500 GMT), and 151 were discharged.

### Bomb attacks

BELFAST, May 7. (UPI): Nine British soldiers were wounded in two bomb attacks and soldiers firing plastic bullets hurt four demonstrators, police said today, the eighth anniversary of the death of Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands.

Paratroopers shot plastic bullets into a West Belfast crowd, injuring four youths who took to the streets in memory of Sands, a Republican who died May 7, 1981 after a 66-day hunger strike in the Maze prison near Belfast.

# Take dirt, it may help you

## Not at all rubbish

SALT LAKE CITY, May 7. (AP) Carol Loveland wouldn't advise replacing meat and potatoes with a plate of dirt, but after studying what's called geophagia she says a mouthful of just the right soil may sometimes be good for what ails you.

"Some soils may contribute minerals... that can be absorbed," said the Utah State University anthropologist.

She warns, however, that "some people can become very anaemic" from eating dirt, ingesting chemicals that interrupt the body's exchange of nutrients — or can be sickened by harmful microbes.

"I think the chances of clay-eating doing an individual very much good are rather slim," Loveland concluded.

Her study, to be published in the June issue of the *Journal of Food and Foodways*, found dirt and clay-eating throughout history.

"There may have been a point where food was not so much separated into animal or vegetable, whatever was available in the environment was edible," she said.

In Roman times, Galen — the 2nd century physician known as the father of experimental physiology — acquired 20,000 lozenges of dirt and goat blood from the Mediterranean island of Lemnos and dispensed them for various ailments.

To this day, dirt-eating is practised in various forms, motivated by belief in soil's nutritional, medicinal, cultural or even religious properties.

"In Africa, clay is frequently formed into an egg shape and sold in the markets," Loveland said. "In India, it's molded into the shape of a tea cup, left unbaked. Tea is poured into the cup, and the individual drinks the tea and eats the cup."

In America's rural south, clay-eating remains a resilient subculture. While the practice may have been imported by African slaves, she said, it no longer can be described as limited to particular social, ethnic or racial groups.

"Other people are using clay, too," she said, noting that capsules and tablets of dirt and clay are showing up in health-food stores, touted for their mineral content and as remedies for certain stomach and intestinal ailments.

Indeed, clay-eating in the Americas predates the importation of slaves.

In Esquipulas, a village in Guatemala, "the Indians prehistorically were taking clay from a clay bed, and when the Spanish arrived, they thought they knew a good thing when they saw it," she said. "They built a cathedral at this clay bed (and) manufactured the clay into capsules."

## Royal Navy takes measure

### Cancer tests on sub crew

LONDON, May 7. (AP) The Ministry of Defence confirmed last night a newspaper report that cancer tests are being made on 25,000 Royal Navy sailors who have served in nuclear submarines.

"Royal Navy submarine personnel are a clearly identifiable group living close to a nuclear power plant. It was considered only prudent to evaluate their health in comparison with other personnel," said a ministry spokesman.

His comment followed a report about the cancer testing in an early edition of the *Mail* on Sunday.

"We decided ourselves that it was prudent to look at the health of submariners, to make sure there is no link," the Ministry spokesman said.

He said the survey by the government-run Medical Research Council began last year.

## Brian Mulroney honoured

BOSTON, May 7. (AP) Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was honoured at the John F. Kennedy Library and given a bronze bust of the slain president, a gift the Kennedy family reserves for world leaders.

Speaking at the library Wednesday, Mulroney described his youthful affection for a fellow Irish Catholic politician as "vicarious ambition." He said Kennedy had moved him personally and inspired his career.

Sen. Edward Kennedy said his brother would have been especially proud to see another son of Ireland succeed in North America.

"If our ancestors had taken different boats from Ireland, you might have become president of the United States and he might have become prime minister of Canada," Kennedy said.

Mulroney also collected the Christian A. Herter Memorial Award, presented by the World Affairs Council of Boston each year to a person "who has made a significant contribution to world peace and understanding."

## Kristofferson's movie

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, May 7. (AP) US singer-actor Kris Kristofferson is playing a North American journalist in a movie about Augusto Cesar Sandino, the Nicaraguan revolutionary who fended off the US Marines in the 1930s.

The film began shooting this week in Sandino's dusty boyhood home of Pio XII, 30 miles (50 kms) east of Managua. Wednesday's edition of the Sandinista government's official newspaper, *Barricada*, said the filming had brought daily life in the town to a virtual standstill.

Portuguese actor Joaquim D'Almeida plays Sandino, namesake of the leftist government, and Victoria Avila of Spain plays his wife, Blanca Aranz de Sandino. Miguel Littin of Chile is directing and co-producing it with the Nicaraguan film institute.

## Jon Bon Jovi marries

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, May 7. (AP) Rock star Jon Bon Jovi was married in front of the Graceland wedding chapel, apparently picking the spot because it is named after the Memphis, Tennessee, home of the late Elvis Presley.

John Bongiovi, 27, and Dorothea R. Hurley, 26, both of New Jersey, obtained a marriage licence last Friday and were married later that day by the Rev. George L. Cotton, officials said Tuesday.

## Armenians honour Hammer

BEVERLY HILLS, California, May 7. (AP) Four young survivors of the catastrophic Armenian earthquake honoured Occidental Petroleum chief Armand Hammer, who donated money and few medical supplies to their devastated homeland.

"You will be forever in the hearts of the Armenian people," Anna Mikaelian, 16, told the industrialist.

## British bank glued shut

FROME, England, May 7. (AP) Clients with appointments to meet their bank manager had to climb through a window to see him after someone poured super glue into the locks at the Midland Bank in the Somerset town of Frome on Friday.

The 20 staff were trapped inside but carried on business by receiving cash from customers through the mailbox, police said. A locksmith finally freed the doors.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES



Singing and winning

THE Yugoslav group Riva stole the hearts of the juries of the Eurovision song contest on Saturday night with a 1960-style song "Rock Me."

The energetic live-member group from the Adriatic town of Zadar squeezed out Britain's Live Report singing "Why Do I Always Get It Wrong."



An estimated 500 million television viewers watched performers from 22 European and Middle Eastern nations. Juries from each country voted.

Members of Riva erupt with joy (right) on winning the contest. Riva lead singer Emilia Kocic at picture right (Reuters wirephoto)

Mulroney was honoured for "his strong commitment to free trade and decisive political leadership in bringing about a successful conclusion to the US-Canadian free trade agreement."

## No infringement of copyright

ST LOUIS, May 7. (AP) US appeals court has ruled that a song by rock star Prince called "U Got the Look" did not infringe on a copyrighted composition by his half-sister.

Lorna L. Nelson had sued her half-brother, whose full name is Prince Rogers Nelson, her brother, and PRN Productions Inc., claiming "U Got the Look" contained lyrics similar to lines in her copyrighted song, "What's Cooking in This Book."

## Foreigners denied divorces

AGANA, Guam, May 7. (AP) Residents of West Germany, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and other foreign nations may have to get divorces somewhere other than Guam.

Superior court Judge Ramon V. Diaz has denied divorce decrees sought by 14 couples from foreign countries, saying he did not have authority to grant divorces to couples who are not residents of Guam, a US territorial island in the Pacific.

## Queen Elizabeth's dog dies

LONDON, May 7. (AP) Queen Elizabeth II's pet dog, "Chipper," has died after being bitten in a fight with other dogs at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace said Friday.

Twelve-year-old Chipper, a cross between a dachshund and a corgi, was involved in a fight started by Ranger, a corgi belonging to 88-year-old Queen Mother Elizabeth, the palace said.

## Geldof attacks television

ATLANTA, May 7. (AP) Irish activist Bob Geldof has charged that television is an "anti-democratic force" and urged creation of a global broadcast university.

"It is essential that people be given access to information on matters that influence them," Geldof told a gathering of international contributors to the "CNN World Report," a production of Cable News Network.

Geldof, a Rock musician and composer, gained world-wide fame when he organised the Live Aid benefit concert that raised \$72 million for African famine victims in 1985. He has agreed to help a similar concert Aug 12 to aid victims of the Dec 7 earthquake in Soviet Armenia.

## Concert for relief

ATLANTA, May 7. (AP) Musicians from the United States and the Soviet Union will perform Aug 12 in a globally televised concert for Armenian earthquake relief, under an agreement announced Friday by Turner Broadcasting System and Jesse Jackson.

The concert will be "an eight-hour, massive global appeal" to raise money "for the redevelopment of Armenia," Jackson said. It will be televised from New York's Apollo theatre, a location in Armenia and possibly from a stage in Los Angeles, he added.

from New York's Apollo theatre, a location in Armenia and possibly from a stage in Los Angeles, he added.

## Bomb dropped accidentally

BRANTLEY, Georgia, May 7. (AP) A 500-pound (227 kg) dropped accidentally from a fighter jet on a training mission and exploded near a rural community, the Air Force said Friday.

No one was injured in the accident Thursday.

## Children contract AIDS

MOSCOW, May 7. (KUNA) Six Soviet children in the city of Vinogradov had contracted AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, it was reported here yesterday.

According to press reports several other children in various Soviet cities, including Moscow, had caught the killer disease.

## 13 infants die

MOSCOW, May 7. (AP) Thirteen infants died in a two-week period in an Armenian high-risk hospital where cockroaches scuttled around the cabinets and doctors set mousetraps under the operating table, a newspaper has revealed.

In a blistering attack accusing officials of indifference, incompetence and covering up, the Armenian newspaper *Kommunist* said 25 children born at the Krupskaya scientific-research institute in the capital Yerevan had died this year, including 13 in the first two weeks of March.

JAZZ

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## Iran-Contra affair

**'Bush and Reagan more involved'**

MIAMI, May 7. (Agencies): Oliver North attacked Congress before a cheering crowd of supporters last night, saying too many members interfere unconstitutionally in foreign affairs. But he avoided any mention of his Iran-Contra conviction.

The event was sponsored by conservatives among Miami's Nicaraguan and Cuban immigrants, who are helping pay North's legal bill stemming from his 2-1/2 year battle against charges that he misled Congress and illegally accepted money from arms merchants in the Iran-Contra affair.

It was the former Marine lieutenant colonel's first scheduled public appearance since a federal jury in Washington convicted him on Thursday on three of the 12 counts he faced during the three-month trial.

Meanwhile, Americans in two opinion polls released yesterday were divided over whether President George Bush should pardon North, but most believed the former White House aide should not go to jail. Bush's spokesman has turned away questions about the possible pardon for North.

Nearly two-thirds of those polled by Newsweek magazine and slightly more than two-thirds in a Time magazine-CNN television poll believe Bush was more involved in the Iran-Contra scandal than he has said. And 82 per cent in the Newsweek poll said they now believe former President Reagan was more involved than he has admitted.

Margin of error was plus or minus five per cent for the Newsweek poll and 4.5 per cent for the Time-CNN poll.

North used most of his 20-minute speech to criticize Congress, suggesting it was giving Central America away to the communists and accusing House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright and other members of acting like secretaries of state.

"They have too many people in it who decided to become secretaries of state... and too many who would usurp the powers of the presidency that were granted to the president in (the) constitution," North said.

North contrasted Congress' support of the freedom fighters fighting a Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan.

■ The US marine corps, flooded with complaints, retreated on Friday from an announcement that North will lose his military pension over his conviction in the Iran-Contra scandal.

■ The foreman of the Iran-Contra jury said that North impressed her as "a great American" who took the heat for his bosses in the White House but she thought that he should get a jail sentence.

**Babangida to give up power**

LONDON, May 7. (AP): Nigeria's President and military leader, Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, says he will be ready to give up military power after the African nation elects a civilian President in 1992.

Interviewed on Channel 4's "The World This Week" programme broadcast last night, Babangida said Nigeria was going through a transition from military to civilian rule. In the last week, the government introduced a new constitution and lifted a five-year ban on political activity.

Black Africa's most populous nation, with an estimated 95 million people, Nigeria is expected to elect a civilian president in October 1992.

**Rocard attends Tjibaou's funeral**

New Caledonia polls set for June 11

NOUMEA, New Caledonia, May 7. (AP): About 5,000 people, including French Premier Michel Rocard, attended the funeral today for Caledonian independence leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou and Yveane Yveane, who were shot to death by extremist Melanesians.

The premier, who flew to the French Pacific territory from Paris with Louis Le Pen, France's minister for Overseas Departments and Territories, also announced that provincial elections scheduled in New Caledonia for June 11 would go ahead as planned.

On Friday, Rocard had said the elections would be postponed because of the killings.

"A criminal doesn't stop the course of peace in progress," the premier said. "Tolerance will not abdicate in the face of fanaticism."

According to the police, Tjibaou, leader of the separatist Kanak socialist National Liberation Front, and his top assistant, Yveane, were shot to death on the island of Ouvea on Thursday by Djibelly Wea, who opposed Tjibaou's recent embrace of more moderate policies.

Djibelly in turn was killed by Tjibaou's bodyguards.

**Israelis preparing to rebuild temple on disputed Temple Mount**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 7. (AP): Israeli rabbis, hoping to rebuild the Jewish temple where Islamic shrines now stand, already are compiling computerised lists of potential priests, weaving seamless linen robes and reproducing a gem-studded breastplate described in the Bible.

But prospects for actual construction any time soon seem slim. The plan would place the

temple altar on what some ultrareligious Jews believe is its historical site — the spot where the gold-topped Dome of the Rock now stands, a Jerusalem landmark and one of Islam's holiest sites.

The seemingly irreconcilable claim by Arabs and Jews to the area, known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Arabs as Haram Al Sharif, or "noble enclosure," is one of the Arab-

Israeli conflict's most emotional issues.

Any attempt by Israel to reclaim it would be certain to stir tensions throughout the Muslim world.

"All Jewish history as far as we're concerned is one big parenthesis until the temple is returned," said Rabbi Nahman Kahane of the Temple Institute. "It isn't like Muslims who have to make the pilgrimage to

Makkah only once in a lifetime. In Judaism, three times a year a person is mandated by the Torah to go to the temple. Life without the temple is not really living," said the US-born Kahane.

The Temple Institute's 50 rabbis and artisans have made temple vessels and produced a computerised blueprint of the shrine in preparation for rebuilding it on the site where it stood until 70 A.D. when the Roman destroyed

it. "We're just trying to get the ball rolling, so when the temple comes we won't be standing there with our mouths open wondering what to do," said institute deputy director Levi Hassan.

More than \$200,000 have been collected to finance the project, most of it from American Jews, according to institute director Rabbi Yisrael Ariel.

In the centuries since the tem-

ple's destruction, the 35-acre (14-hectare) rectangular platform has become a sacred Islamic site, marking the spot where the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) ascended to heaven. Dome of the Rock and nearby Al Aqsa are considered Islam's holiest places of worship after Makkah and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

Tensions resurfaced last month when Israel began barring Muslims from worshipping at Al

Aqsa after Arab rioters threw stones that landed on Jews praying at the adjacent Western Wall on April 7.

The restrictions prompted accusations that Israel had reneged on a pledge to maintain freedom of worship at Muslim holy sites. Adherence to the policy had been a source of pride since Israel captured the old city and its shrines from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

**UK won't negotiate on missile reduction**

W. Germany criticises US

LONDON, May 7. (Agencies): A newspaper reported today that the British government will refuse to negotiate with the Soviet Union on reducing short-range nuclear missiles in Europe even if the other 15 members of NATO agree to do so.

The Sunday Telegraph, in a Washington-dated story, said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made her views known to US President Bush in diplomatic notes and telephone conversations last week.

But the Foreign Office, while refusing to confirm whether Thatcher had communicated with Bush on this issue, said, "NATO policy is a matter for all the NATO allies."

Thatcher's 10 Downing St office also would not confirm today that she had communicated with Bush on the issue.



Mourners carry the coffin of murdered human rights activist David Webster to the grave in a Johannesburg cemetery. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Largest march**

JOHANNESBURG, May 7. (Agencies): Thousands of black and white mourners yesterday staged the largest anti-apartheid march of the three-year-old state of emergency, chanting as they marched through whites-only suburbs in a funeral procession for murdered white activist David Webster.

Young blacks gave clenched fist salutes, waved banners and sang in support of the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla movement as they jogged in unison behind the hearse or perched atop overflowing buses for the 10-kilometre (six-mile) journey from a downtown cathedral to the cemetery.

Webster, 44, was killed outside his home on Monday by a shotgun blast fired at close range from a passing car. Police have issued sketches of three unidentified white men suspected in the killing.

Webster, a professor of anthropology, was one of the few senior white members of the predominantly black United Democratic Front, a nation-wide anti-apartheid coalition. He was a leading critic of detention without trial and had researched the numerous unsolved killings and abductions of anti-apartheid activists that have occurred over the past decade.

■ Three people were killed yesterday in clashes between rival black groups in South Africa's riot-torn Natal province, police said.

**Support for reforms****Bush to visit East**

WASHINGTON, May 7. (AP): George Bush will make the first trip to Eastern Europe by a US President in more than 11 years, visiting Hungary and Poland in July to demonstrate support for their political and economic reforms.

The stops, mostly likely to fall on July 11-13, will come immediately before President Bush arrives in Paris for the annual economic summit of the world's seven richest nations. The summit will be on July 14-16.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said on Friday other countries may be added to Bush's itinerary after Paris.

Likely candidates include Portugal and the Netherlands.

"I look for a lengthy and productive trip," Fitzwater said.

The possibility of a Bush visit to Yugoslavia was raised by sources close to the Yugoslav government. The sources said prospects of a Bush visit will be discussed soon. However, White House officials said privately that such a stop was unlikely.

Announcing the stops in Warsaw and Budapest, Fitzwater said that the United States has been trying "to prod movement towards democracy and economic incentives in Poland."

**Diplomats reserved****Baker to face tough questions in Moscow**

MOSCOW, May 7. (UPI): James Baker will face some tough questioning about Washington's policy on changes in Eastern Europe, arms control and Afghanistan when he meets Soviet leaders this week on his first visit to Moscow as US Secretary of State.

Although diplomats on both sides publicly say they hope the trip on Wednesday and Thursday will set the tone for maintaining the improved superpower relationship which Ronald Reagan's administration helped forge, privately they are more reserved.

In Moscow's opinion, the Bush administration has now had enough time to think things out during its first 100 days in office. The Kremlin is yearning for continuity, but feels Washington is not doing enough to keep the superpower relationship on an even keel.

Soviet diplomats said they want to hear some answers from Washington on arms control proposals, and see better results on regional problems around the world, especially an end to American and Pakistani support for the rebels in Afghanistan.

Alexei Obukhov, head of the US and Canada department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry said the superpowers need to move beyond the intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty, and the dozens of agreements they have signed on regional issues.

"At present this process is developing less actively than before," Obukhov said in an interview with the official Tass news agency at the weekend. "I hope that Baker's visit will bring some results."

On Afghanistan, the Soviets have been especially bitter because they say that Washington has not adhered to its part of the Geneva bargain that secured the Soviet military withdrawal last February.

According to Moscow-based Western diplomats, Baker will suggest to his counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze a date for the resumption in Geneva of START negotiations.

Moscow is carefully, and gleefully, watching the debate in NATO over differences with West Germany on its concern about modernising the American "equalizer" weapons on its soil — the short range nuclear missiles that have made up for the Soviet bloc's huge advantage in control arms and troops in Europe.

Baker is dogged by the fact that a dispute over short-range nuclear forces (SNF) in Europe has created a crisis for NATO.

**Libyans blamed****Attempt to kill US envoy**

ROME, May 7. (Reuters): Washington's outgoing ambassador to Italy was quoted today as saying Libya gained a date for Rome to kill him in 1981.

Maxwell Rabb, who is ending eight years as US ambassador, told the magazine Epoca in an interview to be published tomorrow that he was awoken in his hotel during a trip to Milan on October 13, 1981, and told to fly home to the United States.

"I was to have been assassinated the next day. Five Libyans had been captured by police in a Rome hotel and one of them was to have been my killer."

"I can't go into details for security reasons but they had practically put a price on my head and another on the head of the US consul in Palermo," Rabb was quoted as saying.



March

Hundreds of supporters of Iran leader Khomeini burn the Israeli flag during a rally in front of the Israeli embassy in suburban Makati, Philippines to demand liberation of Israeli occupied lands. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Officials to visit Israel, Egypt, Jordan****US to pursue Mideast peace**

WASHINGTON, May 7. (Reuters): US officials will visit Israel, Egypt and Jordan next week to pursue a Middle East peace initiative now focused on Israel's proposal for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, State Department officials said on Friday.

One senior official did not rule out the possibility that the delegation, headed by Denis Ross, Secretary of State James Baker's top policy adviser, would also meet Palestinians.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler confirmed reports from Israel that Ross would visit the Middle East after Baker meets Soviet officials in Moscow on Wednesday and Thursday.

Stops will include Israel, Egypt and Jordan and will include a briefing on the US-Soviet talks and a discussion on "next steps in the peace process," she

said. The other senior official, who asked not to be identified, said Lebanon will also be on Ross' agenda.

Tutwiler ruled out any contact between Ross and the PLO, saying the US dialogue with that group remained in the exclusive hands of Robert Pelletreau, the US ambassador to Tunis.

But the other official did not rule out a meeting between Ross and Palestinians. "I don't know," he said when asked about a possible meeting.

Under US pressure to come up with "new ideas" to reduce regional tensions, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in March proposed elections for a delegation of Palestinians to negotiate with Israel an interim period of limited self-rule in the occupied territories as part of a comprehensive peace plan.

**Selassie's son ascends throne**

Government-in-exile

LONDON, May 7. (AP): His throne was a simple chair, his robes a blue suit and his palace a London apartment.

Fourteen years after his father's death in custody, Haile Selassie's exiled 73-year-old son at a news conference on Friday announced his ascension to the imperial throne of Ethiopia, where a Marxist-led government now rules.

Seated beside his white-robed empress and surrounded by family-in-exile, Ahma Selassie I of Ethiopia, the conquering lion of the tribe of Judah, said little in response to reporters' questions.

But he and members of his self-styled government-in-exile did indicate they believe the present government will not last much longer and that he will return to reign as a constitutional monarch and bring democracy to the nation.

Ahma Selassie's government-in-exile is not generally recognised by foreign states.

The East African nation of 43 million inhabitants is one of the world's poorest states. It is torn by civil war and periodically

swept by famine. Haile Selassie became emperor in 1930. He pleaded unavailability to the now defunct League of Nations against the 1935-36 conquest of his country by Italy. He then came to live in England until his restoration in 1941.

He ruled Ethiopia for a total of 44 years as head of one of the world's last feudal states. But on Sept 12, 1974 he was deposed by a military clique which established a Marxist government led by Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam and backed by the Soviet Union.

Haile Selassie, who had made Ethiopia the United States' strongest ally in Africa, was last seen alive climbing into the back seat of a car outside his main palace in the centre of the capital Addis Ababa.

He died 11 months later in detention under obscure circumstances at the age of 83.

At the time Haile Selassie was deposed, Ahma Selassie had been living in London for two years undergoing treatment for diabetes.

**No coalition deal**

Even before Secretary of State James Baker sets out for Moscow, the Bush administration has ruled out any deal with the Soviets to impose a coalition government in Afghanistan, a senior aide to Baker said on Friday.

The aide, briefing reporters on next week's trip, said the United States has neither the inclination nor the power to persuade Afghan rebels to strike a deal with President Najib.

Calling for the Soviet-backed leader's ouster, the official said "we do not believe we will have peace in Afghanistan as long as Najibullah is in power."

Baker flies to Finland on Monday and then to Moscow on Wednesday for a meeting that day with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. They will talk again on Thursday morning and Baker will then meet for two hours with President Mikhail Gorbachev that afternoon.

Afghan troops launch a barrage of MB-41 rockets toward rebel positions on the outskirts of Kabul at the start of the Salang highway. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Nakajima in Tunis for talks with PLO chief**

TUNIS, May 7. (Reuters): The head of the World Health Organization has paid a surprise visit to Tunis in an apparent bid to dissuade PLO leader Yasser Arafat from pursuing a bid for full membership that threatens US funding of the UN agency.

A Palestinian source said today WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima held talks with the PLO leader last night.

In a statement after the meeting, Arafat said that if the US opposed the admission of the PLO as a full member of WHO, then Washington should adopt the same attitude towards Israel.

WHO is squeezed in a diplomatic vice over the PLO application, which goes before the annual meeting of WHO's governing assembly tomorrow. Washington has threatened to suspend its 25 per cent contribution to WHO's budget if the PLO becomes a full member.

"The United States is putting pressure on countries on one side and the Arab states are putting pressure on the other side," said one Arab diplomat.

"Each country will come with instructions (on how to vote). We don't know what the result will be."

The membership bid is part of Arafat's drive to increase recognition for a self-proclaimed state of Palestine. He says he will also apply to other United Nations bodies.

**Iran likely to acquire Orai fighter**

NICOSIA, May 7. (Reuters): Iran, which has announced that it is buying new warplanes from an unnamed country, seems certain to acquire a fighter made jointly by Romania and Yugoslavia, military experts believe.

"If I had to put money on it, I would say they (the Iranians) are getting the Orai from Romania," said one military expert who follows arms deals in the Gulf.

Romania and Yugoslavia have jointly built the tactical combat Orai (Eagle) fighter since 1971, but have not yet gained any of the export sales needed to upgrade and enhance it.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said last week Tehran was buying new fighter-bombers but gave no clue as to the source of the planes or the numbers involved.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei visited both Romania and Yugoslavia in late February and sources close to the government in Tehran said later that Iran had agreed to large weapons purchases from East European states other than the Soviet Union.

**ACC summit postponed due to death of Khairallah**

CAIRO, May 7. (Reuters): Leaders of a new Arab economic bloc linking Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen have postponed their first summit meeting, due to have been held this week, Cairo's state-run television announced today.

Heads of state of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), formed in February, had arranged to meet in the Egyptian city of Alexandria on Wednesday for three days of talks to lay down

the alliance's political and economic strategy.

The television said the meeting had been postponed because of the death of Iraqi Defence Minister Adnan Khairallah, killed in a helicopter crash on Friday. A new date would be set in coming weeks, it said.

The ACC's avowed aim is the economic integration of the four member-countries but diplomats and political observers had

predicted that the summit meeting would give vital political impetus to the alliance.

Prominent Egyptian analyst Mohammed Syed Ahmed saw a distinction between the ACC's ideal of an eventual common market combining 80 million Arabs and its political impact.

"Eventually it could play an important role in the Middle East peace process by helping to guarantee the security of any two-state solution of the Pales-

tinian issue," he said.

President Mubarak would have been joined at the summit by Jordan's King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The four leaders have stressed the ACC's economic goals, but proposals to co-ordinate security and intelligence and forge a mutual non-aggression pact have also been discussed.



# Lobbying Israel again set to get PLO

WASHINGTON, May 7. (KUNA): The word is out in Tel Aviv and Washington: Israel is once again set to get the PLO. And the pro-Israel lobby has been hard at work in recent weeks working on the nuts and bolts of a multi-pronged attack strategy against the organisation.

The pro-Israel lobby's objectives, of course, are clear and can be summed up in the following:

First, to foil all the gains that the Palestinians have scored locally, regionally, and internationally as a result of the historic decisions adopted by the Palestine National Council in Algiers and through the Geneva declarations last December.

Second, it wants to divert attention from the Palestinian successes achieved through the intifada — now halfway through its second year — and the support it has gained at the international level, including the United States.

Third, to create a rift between the United States and the PLO that can eventually cause the halting of the dialogue that was launched in Tunis last December. The US has so far not fallen for such bait.

Fourth, to dampen the impact of Israel's loss of support in the United States and to cover up for the serious split that has developed within the American Jewish community.

And, fifth, there is a growing fear among pro-Israel activists that the Bush administration is stacking the deck against Israel, in a bid to force it to cede land in the occupied territories and to conduct direct negotiations with the PLO.

Led by Israel's lobbying arm in Washington — AIPAC — the broad outlines of this Israeli-inspired, multi-pronged strategy has surfaced in recent weeks.

The primary focus of this current campaign is clearly directed at the following issues, which have been carefully monitored and controlled by KUNA in recent weeks:

- Second, to try and show that the PLO was responsible for raids that were being mounted against Israel from south Lebanon and thus to convince Washington that the PLO is still practising terrorism.
- Third, to try and pin responsibility for the downing of the Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland on the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command.
- Fourth, to expose allegations that Palestinians were killing other Palestinians in the occupied territories because they were collaborating with Israel and to emphasize the point that the Palestinians were still practising terrorism, even against each other, to silence moderate voices among them.
- Fifth, questions were being tabled in both the Congress and at the State Department seeking an administrative response to the efforts being made by the Arab League to bring about a reopening of the PLO information office in Washington that was closed by the Reagan administration in 1986.
- Sixth, a campaign aimed at forcing the administration to reject attempts by the PLO to be admitted to the World Health Organisation (WHO) or any other UN agency as a full-fledged member state.

# Seize chance for peace: Mubarak

Fahd praises intifada

CAIRO, May 7. (Reuters): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has urged Israel to seize a "precious and golden opportunity" for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia saluted the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories in his holiday message yesterday. "The Palestinian leadership in co-operation with sincere Arab efforts have made many vital achievements toward the desired objective, especially with respect to the courageous intifada in occupied Palestine," said the Saudi monarch in the traditional message he broadcasts over radio and television at the start of the 3-day Eid Al Fitr. The holiday marks the end of the Ramadan month of fasting.

"An international conference is the ideal means for a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict," Mubarak said in remarks published in yesterday's newspapers.



Demonstrations

Demonstrators carry placards showing Ayatollah Khomeini and Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem during demonstrations on Friday. A banner has been carried by Palestinians to kill Americans and other Westerners in retaliation for killings by Israel in the occupied territories. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Soviets still for ME conference

Polls 'part of settlement'

UNITED NATIONS, May 7. (KUNA): The Soviet Union has again expressed strong support for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We are strongly in favour of an early convening of an international conference where the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should be duly represented," Soviet envoy Alexander Belonogov told UN correspondents in his club.

"We believe that the Arab-Israeli conflict has no many aspects that it demands a comprehensive solution, which, in our deep conviction, can be reached only on the multilateral basis," Belonogov explained.

Commenting on the elections in the occupied territory called for by Israel's prime minister, Belonogov said they should be taken by the Palestinians themselves.

"I repeat that we are still in favour of an international conference. We see it as the only way to find a solution to the problem," he said.

Referring to the current Security Council consultations on the occupied territory, Belonogov said he favoured the proposal put out by the current council president Sir Crispin Tickell of Britain to hold a formal closed meeting of the council with only the Palestinian and Israeli delegations present.

A top Soviet expert on the Middle East appeared to be advocating the idea of a confederation between Israel, Jordan, and "an independent Palestinian state."

Igor Beliaev, a political analyst and columnist for the Moscow magazine, "Literary Gazette" waved the idea of a confederation in a major address at Georgetown University's Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS), which is holding a two-day symposium on the Palestinian question and its future.

Beliaev went out of his way to stress that the Soviets will support the Palestinians' own stand on the issue.

"It is obvious, however, that the Palestinians themselves take a clear-cut stand on this issue," he explained, "first, the establishment of an independent Arab state of Palestine and then consideration of the possibility to set up a confederation with Jordan or Israel."

The top State Department official responsible for the Middle East told the symposium that the United States insists that any elections in the Israeli-occupied territories must be seen as part of a broader process designed to move through transitional arrangements on to final status negotiations.

Paul Hare, the acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East said the US is continuing to discuss with the parties — the Israelis and Palestinians — the key issues that have to be addressed in the negotiations.

He listed these issues as: the shape of the final settlement, security provisions, the linkage between transitional arrangements and final status, and how best to develop a viable forum for negotiations.

# Khairallah dies in crash Helicopter lost control

MANAMA, Bahrain, May 7. (UPI): Iraq's defence minister was killed in a helicopter crash in Kurdistan, where Kurdish separatists have been battling government attempts to relocate Kurds away from sensitive border regions, Radio Baghdad said yesterday.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in a statement broadcast on the state-run radio, said Defence Minister Lieut Gen. Adnan Khairallah died Friday afternoon when the pilot of his helicopter lost control in a sand storm, causing the craft to crash.

The announcement said one person survived the crash and was hospitalised. Two other helicopters accompanying Khairallah survived the sand storm, it said.

Khairallah had been heading operations in Iraqi Kurdistan to relocate thousands of Iraqi Kurds away from sensitive border regions with Iran, rebel Kurdish sources in Ankara, Turkey, said.

The Kurdish sources said they did not know if Khairallah's helicopter had been fired on. Thousands of Iran-backed Kurdish rebels still operate in the rugged mountains of Kurdistan.

The Iraqi presidential palace announced three days of mourning for the death of Khairallah, whose funeral procession took off by road late yesterday in a convoy from the Monument of the Unknown Soldier in downtown Baghdad, to his hometown of Tikrit, some 80 miles (130 km) north of the Iraqi capital.

Saddam and Khairallah's weeping father led tens of thousands of mourners in the procession through the streets of Baghdad. The late general's body was draped in the black, red and white flag of Iraq.



Khairallah: influential

a gallant role" in the Iran-Iraq war, Saddam's statement said.

State-run Tehran Radio, without backing up its claim, said Khairallah "was murdered."

The semi-official Turkish Anatolia news agency reported in February Hussein foiled an attempted coup d'etat against him by disgruntled army officers, and that about 200 people were later executed in connection with it.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz later denied the report as "groundless."

Tehran radio said Gen. Maher Abdur Rashid, Iraq's most decorated general, was also recently killed in an accident. Regional analysts could not immediately confirm reports of Rashid's death, but said Maher's brother, Taher Abdur Rashid, also a senior army officer, was killed in a helicopter accident last July.

Political analysts said the death of Khairallah, a member of Iraq's innermost ruling circle loyal to Saddam, was more likely to be a great loss to the Iraqi leader.

Some diplomats regarded Khairallah as one of the most influential men in Iraq and one of two or three men well-positioned to be a potential successor to the President, who is 52.

Diplomats in the Middle East closely following events in Iraq regarded Khairallah as a key figure in building up the armed forces during eight years of war with Iran.

He was known to believe in efficiency and was said to favour closing or selling off to the private sector state enterprises that failed to show a healthy profit.

# Sudanese rebels dismiss talks plans

CAIRO, Egypt, May 7. (AP): Sudan's Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi scheduled May 15 for the start of talks between his government and the southern rebels to seek an end to the six-year-old civil war.

But, a rebel spokesman dismissed the Sudanese plans and said Al Mahdi would first have to meet certain conditions.

In a report from the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, Egypt's Middle East News Agency said yesterday setting a date for the start of talks between an official Sudanese Military Technical Committee and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army led by renegade Col John Garang.

Al Mahdi said the talks would be held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, MENA reported.

Al Mahdi's announced plan came after he declared an end to a state of emergency, one of the conditions stipulated in an agreement reached last November between the SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party, a junior ruling partner at the time.

"The prime minister cannot decide to send a delegation of military officers and discuss just a ceasefire," Maj. Deng Alor, SPLA spokesman said in a telephone conversation from Addis Ababa.

"The prime minister cannot skip any of the provisions in the agreement. He has to abolish Islamic law, cancel military pacts with foreign powers, Egypt and Libya, and lift the state of emergency."

"What he did is ignore the first two (conditions)," Alor said.

# Iraq 'negotiates' with France to rebuild N-plant

SHARJAH, UAE, May 7. (AP): The Iraqi minister in charge of military industries was quoted yesterday as saying his country has started negotiations with France to rebuild the nuclear reactor destroyed by an Israeli bombing run. But France denied that any negotiation was in progress.

"Iraq is determined to rebuild the Tamouz nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes and negotiations for this purpose have started with France," said the Minister of Industry and Military Production, Hussein Kamal, in

the interview with Al Khaleej newspaper of Sharjah.

Israeli warplanes destroyed the Osirak nuclear reactor at Tamouz, outside Baghdad, in 1981. Israel has recently accused Iraq of attempting to develop a nuclear warhead that could reach Israel.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted in an interview published in Kuwait and Egypt as indicating he has assurances "Israel will not attack Iraqi military targets or its nuclear programme."

A spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry said today there are no negotiations in progress between France and Iraq for the reconstruction of the Tamouz nuclear power plant.

The spokesman denied the statement by Kamal.

The French Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the problem of rebuilding the reactor has been brought up in the past by the Iraqi authorities and was brought up again recently.

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# Extremists' attack kills one Christian in Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt, May 7. (AP): A Christian man died and his brother and two women were hospitalised after Muslim extremists invaded the men's apartment and attacked them with knives, security and family sources said on Friday.

Members of the men's family said the melee broke out after the brothers refused demands by the fundamentalists to stop playing a cassette tape of a Christian mass.

A ranking security officer denied that a tape recording was involved but said the attackers

were incensed because the men were with the women, one of whom was a Muslim. Strictly orthodox Muslims ban social mixing of the sexes.

"There was no recorded mass involved," the officer said. "There is a sectarian problem here, but not that bad."

The incident occurred last Sunday, the Coptic Christian Easter, at 11 a.m. Muslims sun-down breakfast time during Ramadan, the religion's holy month of daytime fasting.

The victim, Ramez Elia El Aggar, died on Thursday.

The security officer, who refused to be identified in accordance with police regulations, said unknown attackers broke into the men's apartment with knives and chains while the women were visiting.

They were offended by the "party, and the mixing of sexes," he told the AP. Speaking to another reporter, however, the officer said nothing about a party but that the women, university students, had stopped off to wish the Christian men a Happy Easter.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Amiri greetings

KUWAIT, May 7, (KUNA): HH the Amir has exchanged cables of congratulations with his brother leaders of Arab and Islamic countries on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr.

HH wished them the best, hoping them many happy returns of the blessed occasion.

## Amiri condolences

KUWAIT, May 7, (KUNA): HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the death of Iraqi Defence Minister Adnan Khadrallah, who was killed in a helicopter crash Friday.

## Condolences

KUWAIT, May 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the passing away of Defence Minister Gen. Adnan Khadrallah who was killed in a helicopter crash.

Radio Baghdad yesterday quoted President Hussein as saying that the helicopter crashed in a wind storm during a return trip from the northern city of Mosul to Baghdad. He added that all on board except one were killed. The number of passengers was not disclosed.

Sheikh Saad also sent similar cables to Vice-Chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim and to council member and First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan.

## Doctors criticised

THE Chairman of Kuwaiti Medical Society Dr Abdullah Al Rasheed has criticised the Union of Owners of Private Clinics which attacked the Undersecretary of Public Health Dr Nael Al Naqeb for accusing private physicians of being merchants.

Rasheed pointed out that the private medical sector in Kuwait should integrate services of the ministry. He added that there are some private physicians who are greedy and work irresponsibly. He described the statement of the Union of Owners of Private Clinics as a painful and unjustified one. He added that Naqeb did not mean or accuse all physicians of the private sector. He added that Naqeb's observations were true because some physicians at the private sector deviate from aims of the medical service. The holy work of physicians does not know greed but sacrifice and generosity, he said.

## Pilgrim inspection

THE Undersecretary of Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammed Nasser Al Hamdhan has said that the ministry's committee to inspect rented buildings in Makkah and Madina for pilgrims of Kuwaiti caravans will leave on May 20.

The committee will check if these buildings meet the conditions of the ministry. He added that the committee will hold several meetings before departure to study procedures of their work.

Hamdhan pointed out that 65 caravans will leave for Saudi Arabia from Kuwait on pilgrimage. Each caravan will pay an insurance of KD8,000 to the ministry in order to be given a licence. The sum can be completely refunded or a part of it if owner of the caravan violates the charters and regulations or does not provide full services for pilgrims, he said.

## Ad hoc committee

THE Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razzaq Al Abdul Razzaq has formed an ad hoc committee to reevaluate the enforced operations policy in the field of nursing services, to be headed by the secretary general of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations Dr Abdullah Al Rifai.

The committee would prepare an inventory of the regulations and by-laws enforced in the nursing sector, to update and upgrade them, to ensure the optimisation of performed services level, and recommend revisions or abrogations of existing impractical ones.

Meanwhile, a meeting will reportedly be held at the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations between Dr Nael Al Naqeb, Dr Abdullah Al Rifai, and University Vice Rector for Medical Sciences Basel Al Naqeb, to discuss the relation between the ministry and the Faculty of Medicine.

## Laser information

MANAMA, May 7, (GNA): The University of Bahrain has introduced a new laser-based international system of information.

Dr Nazem Ali, an assistant co-ordinator for information and research at the university library said that the data bases available to this system were 33, which covered various scientific, sociological, engineering, educational, arts and other fields of modern sciences.



Children share a plate of sweets and (below) two Muslims meet in an embrace to wish each other Eid.



Mrs K.M. Shehabuddin, wife of the Bangladeshi ambassador, exchanges greetings with a Bangladeshi lady at her home.



Shehabuddin (fourth left) pictured with some of the people who attended the Open House.



A group of Egyptians watch as two of their friends do an Arab dance.



Some kids opt to take a drive in the Entertainment City. (Photos by Javed Basra)

## Kuwait celebrates Eid

KUWAIT joined the Muslim world to celebrate Eid Al Fitr on Saturday.

HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince, ministers and senior officials offered Eid prayers at the Grand Mosque. Thousands of Muslims also joined congregations in mosques spread throughout Kuwait.

Eid was celebrated in the Gulf countries and the UK on Saturday. The festival was observed yesterday by Muslims in the Indian sub-continent.

On the first day of Eid, HH the Amir also exchanged greetings with citizens and congratulated them in the Sharq area. On the second day of Eid the Amir received greetings from the citizens in the Qibla area. Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah welcomed the Amir to the Qibla area.

## Quietude

The Eid Al Fitr celebration marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast from dawn to dusk.

Kuwait's Eid festivities are marked by quietude unlike any other in the world. Shops are shut; markets closed and the barren roads beckon motorists, at least for most part of the morning on the first two days of Eid. The evenings are reserved for an outburst of euphoria: women and children dressed in finery go out in droves to parks and gardens and the entertainment city.

The festival is a time to rejoice, reflect and share the joys of life with family and friends. And as such, most families, expatriate and Kuwaiti, hold "open house", inviting them to share their happiness. A buffet of refreshments awaits guests.

An open house was held by the Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait, K.M. Shehabuddin. Muslims visited the houses of their friends and relatives.

The children have the best time; eating, drinking and making merry as they received "eid" (cash gifts) from parents and family.

Kuwaiti festivities were staged at Kuwait's popular cafes, which included popular shows and variety contests in Qibla and Salmiya.

The Sulaiman Al Shumaimari Cafe in Sharq will host Eid festivities on the fourth day while the popular Cafe in Abu Halifa will host these festivities on the fifth day.

## Tomato crop

ACCORDING to an official source at the Kuwait Agro-production Company the reason for the increase in the cucumber produce for this season as opposed to the drop in the tomato produce is the viral attack that hit the latter, which forced farmers to uproot the infected tomato seedling and grow cucumber instead.

## Iraq water and modern equipment to aid agriculture

THE director of the Botanic Wealth Department at the Public Authority for Agriculture Jassem Al Bader has said that important changes will be noticed in the agricultural sector specially after the arrival of water supplies from Iraq and the use of modern equipment in irrigation and cultivation.

The state and farmers are exerting every effort to create suitable agricultural circumstances in non-suitable environmental circumstances, Bader said. He added that this means that big investments should be made in the agricultural sector to expand this sector. The importance of carrying out the coming plan of modern technology to replace traditional agricultural methods is vital, he said and added that the state invested KD45 million in the agricultural sector during the present Five Year Plan 84/1985-88/1989. KD25 million was allocated for agriculture and KD20 million for afforestation projects.

He stressed on the importance of having future plans to develop the agricultural sector.

Bader pointed out that the most serious problem that faces the agricultural development in the country is limited to arable lands with a low level of fertility. The total area is 17,818 million donoms (ten donoms equal to one hectare). Only 11.2 per cent of this area is arable land (two million donoms). Only 21,700 donoms are cultivated while the other 1,786 million donoms are arable lands but not used because of scarcity of irrigation water and increase of percentage of salt in underground water as well as a lack of rain. This obliges farmers to use the latest irrigation methods and undertake scientific studies to estimate the actual needed quantities of water for irrigation.

He pointed out that weather circumstances are not suitable for agriculture because of

high temperature in summer and low temperature in winter and the strong winds in summer which destroy the plants. The agricultural sector suffers from shortage of trained farmers and from a scarcity of investments in agricultural projects.

Relevant authorities have some long term aims to develop the agricultural sector in Kuwait. These aims are: increasing percentage of self-sufficiency in some agricultural products and foodstuffs to face the increasing demands on foodstuffs, achieving a high percentage of food security, increasing the funds invested in agricultural projects, training the manpower working in the sector to be able to use the latest methods and systems in irrigation and cultivation, expansion in agricultural lands, developing water resources, and giving more concern to the scientific research bodies that are concerned in making agricultural studies.

## PACI civil ID combines with scrapped green card

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the Public Authority for Civil Information Faisal Al Shayji has said that the authority includes the work place or name of the employer for carriers of the Civil ID card to co-operate with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to replace the work card issued by the ministry for non-Kuwaiti employees. He added that the profession is not written in the ID card because the holder may change his profession for different reasons.

Shayji pointed out that the authority has not developed a postal delivery service at the present time because of the difficulty in carrying out such a system. The authority has to make sure of the identity of the holder of the card has to be delivered in person.

He added that new ID card is different in design and colour than the old one. The new card is smaller. It contains stamps and

ink that cannot be seen with naked eye for security reasons. He added that authority has handed about 400,000 cards of the new type. It issues about 3,000 new cards a day, he said.

## Violators

Shayji pointed out that the authority applied the law against people who did not register for the first time by imposing a fine of KD100. But, he added, that some violators were exempted from paying the fine because they were obliged not to register for certain reasons. Shayji said the reason the offices of the authority were crowded was because people did not abide by appointment given to them for registration. Some of them also are not convinced that formalities could be completed through the post so they rush the offices to deliver documents by hand. Despite all that the authority opened a branch for delivery of ID cards in Farwaniya area.

## MEW takes measures to deal with summer

THE Undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water Abdullah Al Munayes was quoted as saying that the ministry has taken all the necessary measures for the dealing with the summer season. In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the ministry had set up integrated programmes for the maintaining of its power stations.

## Develop local industries: educationist

THE Dean of the Faculty of Science at Kuwait University Dr Fayzah Al Khorafi was quoted as saying that Kuwaiti industries have witnessed significant development during the last fifteen years. She added that the absence of administrative planning in the past had blocked further development.

Fayzah said that some industries were established and based on the full support extended by the government, and pointed out that some failed companies still enjoy the government's support which in fact should be suspended.

Speaking of the co-operation between her faculty and the industrial sector, Fayzah Khorafi said, although co-

operation was quite good it has not expanded particularly in the field of petrochemicals. She added that the faculty had established an advisory council which will be in touch with the private sector to discuss the needs of the sector training and consultations.

In the meantime, Khorafi has called for the developing of local industries by increasing the necessary support to successful industries and the application of related laws.

She called for the organising of the marketing process pertaining to the national industries, taking into account the negatives which may affect such a process.

Replying to a question, the official said that Kuwaiti women had proved successful on different levels, and added that women should be given the necessary chance to hold a ministerial portfolio.

## Smuggling attempts foiled

By Nashed Al Agba

THE Deputy Director of General Customs Department for airport affairs Abdul Razzaq Al Ubaid has said that customs men at the airport have foiled 386 attempts to smuggle narcotics and liquor and 336 attempts to smuggle weapons in 1986. He added that smugglers were referred to general prosecution.

## Female inspectors

He added that customs men foiled many cases of porno films smuggling, forged passports and commercial cheating by putting famous international commercial brands on local products. Ubaid pointed out that 19

## Legal CLINIC

IF contract workers are terminated, what benefits do they get from the company according to the law? What is the procedure to cancel their visas? And how long will it take to cancel? Which working visa is transferable?

ACCORDING to the law, you can get outstanding dues, i.e. salary owed to you, leave salary, plus 15 days salary for each year for the first five years; and one month's wages for each year for the sixth year onward.

You have not mentioned whether you are resigning or whether you are being fired. If you are being fired, you'll get the above settlement. If you resign before completing five years, then you are not entitled to any end of service benefit, but you can get the leave salary owed to you. But if you resign after five years of service, then you're entitled to half of the total settlement. For example, if you're entitled to get KD1,000 settlement, you'll get KD500.

It takes three or four days to cancel a visa. The sponsor must issue a cancellation letter to the Ministry of Social Affairs, which forwards the papers to the Immigration Department. The Immigration Department cancels the visa and gives the applicant about a week to exit.

According to the new law, a working visa is transferable after completing three years of service with an employer.

I'VE been in Kuwait for five years and working as a housemaid. My husband has been working as a domestic for the last six years. We married in India last year. I want to know if I can get pregnant and have a baby in Kuwait. Will I get medical care during the months of pregnancy?

I have submitted all documents of my marriage to the Ministry of Interior to show that our marriage was legal. Kindly help me in this critical moment.

THERE is nothing against a married woman getting pregnant. You can have a baby in Kuwait. You will also get medical attention, provided you have made a Civil Identity Card. The Civil ID is now absolutely necessary to complete all formalities. If you haven't got a Civil ID, I'll advise you to get one. As long as you have a marriage contract, you can have a baby. By the way, your question surprised me. It was a strange query.

I'VE been working in a company in the private sector for the last four years. During these years, I went on vacation once. I also took maternity leave. My employer did not pay me leave salary or maternity leave salary. My boss said: "A private company is not bound by the Kuwaiti Labour Law". After how many years is a person entitled to a vacation and can go on maternity leave?

ST, Ras Salamiya

YOUR employer must pay all the dues — the leave salary and paid maternity leave. An employer has no right to withhold any payment that an employee has worked for. However if you take maternity leave, say in 1989, then you are not entitled to annual leave in that year. But if you don't take maternity leave, you can get annual leave. An employee is entitled to 14 days paid annual leave after completing one year of service in a company. For every successive year thereafter, you are entitled to 14 days leave excluding Fridays. An employee can take leave twice a year, for example 7 days each at six month intervals, provided your leave does not affect the work at your place of employment. A woman is entitled to 70 days maternity leave — 30 days before delivery and 40 days after the birth of a child.

You are covered by the Kuwait Labour Law and can claim all outstanding dues from your employer. You can also take legal action against him.

IN addition to free boarding/lodging, to and from air tickets and medical care, are there any benefits given by Kuwaiti families for domestic help, serving them for a period of nine years or more?

Dashed, Salamiya

DOMESTIC helpers are not covered by the Kuwaiti Labour Law, and as such there is nothing in the law regarding benefits for home help. However, most sponsors must pay air tickets to domestic helpers who want to go on vacation, or are returning to their country.

If you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind, send your questions to Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti advocate Khaled Taher replies to reader's queries. Write to Arab Times, PO Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait; or fax your questions to Fax No. 4847495. For further details call Tel: 4813566 ext. 285.

## Nawaf returns from Iraq visit

KUWAIT, May 7, (KUNA):

Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed returned home today from Baghdad after conveying Kuwaiti Amir, Crown Prince and Premier and Kuwaiti people's condolences to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein upon the death of Defence Minister Adnan Khadrallah.

Sheikh Nawaf said on his return that he was dispatched by HH the Amir to extend condolences to the Iraqi President, government and people.

The minister, who was seen off at Baghdad airport by Minister of State for Military Affairs Gen. Abdul Jabbar Shanshal and senior Army officers. While in Baghdad Nawaf also had a meeting with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

## Local charities

THE assistant undersecretary of Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour for Youth Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui has said that the ministry has distributed KD1,178,000 over the local charity societies last year. He added that there are 54 of these societies in Kuwait which are carrying out human, cultural and social activities. He added that the Ministry of Social Affairs controls the activities of these societies. The ministry is also the authority which gives permissions for these societies to collect money and donations from the public according to the charters and rules applied by the ministry.



# Arab alliances will contribute to integration: Sheikh Isa

By Ibrahim Saada

PRIOR to his visit to Cairo, HH Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa confirmed that the existence of Egypt in the Arab fold represented an imperative need. In an interview with Al-Sayassah, Sheikh Isa confirmed that GCC countries co-operated with Jordan to surmount current circumstances. He expressed hope for the success of the Arab Six-man Committee in applying the Arab League's scheme and decision on Lebanon.

Q. Your Highness, we in Egypt awaited your pending visit to Cairo for quite some time, can you elaborate on the purpose of the visit.

A. Needless to say, I harbour every appreciation and love for Egypt and its people and looked forward to paying a visit to my second homeland but due to some unforeseen circumstances either for me or for my brothers in Egypt I was obliged to postpone.

But, however, my son who is also the heir apparent and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Forces Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa has visited Egypt last year and his visit was successful. Visits between Egypt and Bahrain have been undertaken on a ministerial level several times as well.

Thank God, that during our visit to Egypt we will hold meetings with President Hosni Mubarak and we will avail ourselves with the great performance that has been achieved during his reign in different fields. We shall discuss all the means that might lead to the boosting of the bilateral relations between our two countries.

Q. Your Highness, some people still express surprise that during President Hosni Mubarak's recent tour in the region, he visited Bahrain although you were out of the country during that period, what is your comment on this issue?

A. Actually, we are very proud of President Mubarak's attitude either towards us or towards the region in general. During his recent tour in the region,

President Mubarak insisted visiting Bahrain, although he was already aware that I was abroad, and my heir apparent received him. Needless to say that this attitude represents the nobleness of President Mubarak and embodies the appreciation that President Mubarak harbours towards Bahrain. However, I have already perceived his feelings when he was Vice-President.

Q. Although, the diplomatic ties between Egypt and most of the Arab countries including Bahrain were severed, the Egyptian people knew the honourable attitude that was showed by Your Highness during that period. Could you inform me about your feelings when you decided to sever diplomatic ties with Egypt despite your love for Egypt and Egyptians and how did you translate these feelings during those years?

A. Bahrain's attitude towards Egypt had never been changed and we had never felt that the relations between our two countries had been severed, as contacts continued and visits were exchanged on several levels. We proudly remember those contacts between us and President Hosni Mubarak. Bahrain and her Arab sisters were striving to resume the diplomatic relations with Egypt and we thank God that such ties have been resumed and Egypt is no longer out of the Arab fold.

Q. What about your evaluation of the current relations between Egypt and Bahrain and Your Highness' anticipations for the future of such relations?

A. We are satisfied and proud of the consolidated relations between Egypt and Bahrain which reflect the desires of the two peoples for the establishment of strong relations to be based on joint co-operation and co-ordination in the interest of the two peoples.

Q. Can you elaborate on the topics to be discussed with President Hosni Mubarak during your forthcoming visit to Egypt?

A. There is no specific agenda for discussions among brothers, but, needless to say our debates and discussions will be based on



HH Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

the issues that Arab and Islamic nations face. Hence, our consultations will handle all the issues of interest for the Arab and Islamic nation. We believe that it is necessary to co-ordinate our attitudes towards the dire issues including the Palestinian cause in view of the political weight represented by Egypt and additionally, we will debate Arab and international efforts exerted in this connection as well as the bilateral economic, cultural, social, security and military relations between the two countries.

Q. As your Highness is aware, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz had recently paid a visit to Cairo in the wake of his visit to Iraq and it was announced that Your Highness will pay a visit to Iraq. Is this just a coincidence?

A. Needless to say King Fahd's visit to Egypt and its fruitful outcomes on all levels will constitute a new era in the relations between Egypt and GCC countries. But our visit to Iraq comes to congratulate the brothers in Iraq for the restoration of peace and security to the region.

Q. The public in Egypt knows what Egypt wants from her Arab sisters, but they do not know what the Arabs need from Egypt. Could Your Highness shed some light on what the Arabs really need from their older sister (Egypt) particularly in light of Arab issues?

A. I am positive that Egypt has given so much to the Arab nation and has always adopted an honourable attitude towards Arab causes. We, in Bahrain appreciate this honourable attitude showed by President Mubarak in this respect and we are also proud of the pilot role played by Egypt towards the contribution in development and economic and educational programmes in Bahrain and we hope that such a contribution will continue particularly towards developing training programmes in different fields, particularly in the fields that have shown tangible progress in Egypt.

Q. Your Highness, in your capacity as the Chairman of the

current session of the Gulf Co-operation Council, could you inform me about the performances achieved during your chairmanship?

A. The Gulf Co-operation Council still enjoys the appreciation and the pride of the GCC leaders and people in view of the role it has played in boosting fraternal relations among the member states. The GCC summit in Bahrain represented a good chance for us to review performances achieved during the GCC march and we hope that we will be able to add more to such performances in different fields and we also hope that the council will go ahead towards the boosting of the joint co-operation among the member states in all fields.

Q. Does the establishment of the three Arab groups, the GCC, ACC and Arab Maghreb, mean going back to the policy of political and security alliances? Does this mean more contradictory Arab alliances? Does it mean more divisions among the Arab Nations?

A. We, as the GCC, have welcomed the formation of the Arab Co-operation Council and the Maghreb Union, because we realised the noble objectives behind them. We realised that such alliances would contribute to strengthening economic co-operation among the Arab countries. We are absolutely confident that such groups will strongly support Arab causes and won't be different and contradictory with the pioneering role of the Arab League. Integration and co-operation among Arab countries will continue within the framework of the Arab League being the first symbol of Arab unity action. We, in the GCC states, eagerly look with true intentions for the continuation of fruitful and constructive co-operation between all the Arab leaders to achieve our goals of integrations and solidarity among our countries.

Q. The latest events in Jordan were interpreted that some Arab countries who earlier pledged to provide financial support to Jordan, did not fulfil their commitments. Being the head of the GCC in this session, which includes most countries providing aid to Jordan, what is your opinion of that interpretation and in what way can your council can help Jordan overcome its crisis?

A. We regret the bloody incidents that took place in Jordan and we are grateful that things have returned to normal; motivated by the wise leadership of King Hussein. Undoubtedly, the GCC states stand by Jordan and express their solidarity and co-operation with it.

Q. Do you think that the continuation of fighting in Lebanon is attributed to foreign intervention in its affairs?

A. Lebanon has been facing difficult challenges for the last 15 years and thus requires solid support from its Arab brothers in order to restore peace and stability to it. We hope that the Arab Six-man Committee would be able to implement the plan the resolutions issued by the Ministerial Council of the Arab League, and be able to stop the bloodshed and destruction.

Q. Egypt and Saudi Arabia have agreed to establish a causeway among them. What's your opinion about the possibilities of the success or failure of this project in the light of Bahrain-Saudi causeway?

A. We support any vital project linking any two Arab countries. Undoubtedly the causeway project between Egypt and Saudi Arabia would open the way for improving relations and co-operation between the two countries, especially in the economic and trading fields.

Q. Fighting has ended between Iraq and Iran. But some say that their views are still far apart from each other and do not rule out the possibility that war could be resumed. What is your opinion on this and what is the role being played by Bahrain to bridge the gap between the two countries?

A. The position of the GCC states concerning the Iraq-Iran war is clear. We hope to forget the war and its destruction, leave it behind us and optimistically think of the future. We should start strengthening peace based upon mutual respect. This is part of the Arab position, which for the beginning of the war, had tried to stop the war and supported all attempts aiming at solving the conflict through negotiations in order to establish peace based upon justice and mutual respect and non interference in the internal affairs of others.

Q. Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen, the three members in addition to Egypt in the ACC, have openly announced they will not attend any Arab summit if Egypt is not invited. What is the opinion of the GCC and Bahrain

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Haj preparations

THE assistant undersecretary for Medications and Medical Equipment and Secretary-General of the Kuwait Medical Expedition for Haj Ibrahim Al Mudaf has said that preparations and staffing have been completed for the expedition to meet the growing demand and work pressure during the haj season this year.

He told a local paper that the Kuwait medical expedition's main tasks were to prevent the spread of disease among pilgrims, ensuring their physical fitness and provide medical attention to those falling ill.

He urged the public media to help raise public health awareness and pilgrims to run the necessary health check-ups before travelling in the haj caravans to ensure their freedom of any illnesses or infections. He warned pilgrims against sun-stroke which he said induced alimentary, inflammatory, optical and other complications, that often were caused by failure to adhere to instructions.

### Telephone services

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs and Chairman of the Ministry's Tariff Development Committee Jaseem Al Wazzan has said that the committee had finalised recommendations on additional subscriber telephone services and a report to this effect had been prepared and submitted for endorsement to competent higher authorities.

He told a local daily that the proposed tariff rate ranged from KD5 to 70, depending on whether the tariff is collected on annual basis or just for once.

He pointed out that the proposed tariff is meant to charge subscribers for services such as, 'Ring Me Up', 'Short-Call', 'Hot-Line' and 'Third Caller', and that such services could be applied for only with the telephone exchanges offering these services.

He said that the ministry's conditional guarantee for the trunk-call system was now confined to a bank guarantee for the sum of KD500 or the cancellation of this service system.

### Inspection

THE Minister of Education Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri inspected the Farwaniya educational area accompanied by senior ministry officials.

The minister and his delegation toured a few schools in the area and met with principals and teachers who briefed him on progress in work.

The director of the area told a local daily that preparations for the exams included the formation of a special committee to follow up the needs of the various exam centres.

He said that meetings with the assigned investigators were scheduled to be held to follow up on these developments and to exchange views and suggestions.

## Afforestation on in full swing

THE Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth is continuing its efforts to carry out the afforestation project which extends to 1997. The authority is afforesting different lands and squares in the country. The Afforestation and Gardens department of the authority carried out several projects to maintain a number of projects and areas to improve their performance. Officials of the authority have said that the department is now carrying out afforestation projects that cost about KD350,000 such as a project to plant 10,000 seedlings, digging channels and irrigation works for 8,000 seedlings at Umm Al

Himan and Jahra.

The department is now carrying out a project to plant 22,000 seedlings and irrigate projects at the Spring Camps with a total area of 170 hectares. The department studied a project to plant and irrigate 46,000 seedlings for two years at Spring Camps of an area of 350 hectares beside planting 40,000 seedlings and irrigation works for two years at Shidadiya area.

The department is going to carry out a project to use treated water in afforestation projects in Jahra area. The department will provide the projects with 33 million gallons of treated sewage water a day for two years.

### Irrigation

Sources pointed out that the authority studied several projects that will be invited for tenders shortly. These projects cost about KD2 million such as

## Higher education organisational structure still under study

THE Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan has said that the ministry's organisational structure is still under consideration and that there is a plan to set up a special unit to handle the administrative and financial affairs, another for scholarship affairs and cultural relations and a third for the information bank.

He said that the ministry would also sponsor the construction of new buildings to meet ever-growing requirements, besides the new university campus in Subiya.

Shamlan pointed out that the new higher education draft law had been finalised and the by-laws on scholarships was near completion.

He added that the existing university buildings were being maintained, renovated, and upgraded, while new buildings were also being constructed to meet the increasing demand and growing academic requirement.

### Solutions

Shamlan said the ministry was earnest in finding solutions and that a number of possible approaches were currently under consideration pending selection of the most convenient.

He lauded the government's support for local industries and the various forms of aid rendered by the government to back up the institution and development of local industries, through various channels, not forgetting to provide training for the national labour force.

## Teachers pay is adequate, says official

THE assistant undersecretary for planning and development at the Ministry of Education, Dr Rashed Al Hamad pointed that teachers' salaries in Kuwait are adequate to an extent.

In an interview with a local daily he said teachers are blamed for the negative features of information media. He added that teachers should show flexibility and diplomacy in treating students and parents. He also called for an increase in teachers' salaries.

On the issue of low salaries paid to expatriate teachers at the ministry, he said that teachers should be paid higher salaries to prevent them from practicing other work that may affect their social standing.

## New nursing course plan

THE Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razzaq Al Abdul Razzaq has said that the ministry shares a new plan with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training for the development of existing nursing curricular courses, aiming to optimise teaching and professional levels.

He said that 90 per cent of the nursing staff were hired from outside, deploring the lack of personal motivation among citizens to join in the nursing sector in the country.

He told a local daily that the reason for the absence of a nursing college where not only citizens would enroll but also citizens from various parts of the Arab world.

The director of Al Sabah Hospital Dr Adel Al Khatrash criticised the misconception enter-

tained at the Arab world level about the nursing profession, which still saw this profession as unsuitable for women, particularly because of the fact that it requires working night shifts.

Meanwhile, the minister has confirmed the completion of ministry preparations to host a total of 70 Lebanese patients in Kuwait hospitals, based on co-ordinated arrangements with the Lebanese Ministry of Health.

He told a local daily that arrangements were initially made for 50 patients, but the figure was raised to 70 in response to a wish by the Lebanese government.

He said that the patients would be brought to Kuwait onboard KAC carriers from Lebanon's airport following the ceasefire enforced by the leader of the provisional military cabinet Michel Ouon.

## 16 cases against Health Ministry to be examined

THE secretary-general of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations Dr Abdullah Al Rifai has said that the relevant Kuwaiti courts were examining 16 cases against the Ministry of Public Health whose suers seek compensation for medical errors.

He told a local newspaper that the ministry had ordered the formation of an ad hoc committee to look into alleged professional foul-ups to establish whether these were caused by negligence or any other reasons in order to punish the guilty and prevent the frequency of similar mishaps.

Rifai said that the committee was also assigned to submit recommendations on possible measures to rectify existing administrative or professional failings, whereby to straighten out the operational system of the various ministry work sites.

### Gifts

He highlighted the element of self-control and discipline in the administration of medical services, stressing that a quality-control committee must be set up in each and every hospital to look for ways to optimise the

performance level of services.

He rejected on moral grounds the acceptance by doctors of gifts offered by patients, stressing that doctors were under legal, moral and professional obligation to render the best possible services to patients without waiting for any financial or other reward of any kind. He urged all people to abstain from offering doctors gifts in gratitude for rendered services. He said that there was no legal statute preventing the acceptance of gifts by doctors, but the general law and legislation of the state considers gifts as bribes.

## MPW completes projects

THE Projects Department at the Ministry of Public Works completed a total of KD77 million worth of huge projects during 1988. Some of these projects are vital and others are utilities, according to an official.

The department official pointed out that the department is now engaged in the implementation of three projects worth KD33 million. The three projects include the new telecommunication tower being built at a cost of

KD25 million, the Meshrif Centre at a cost of KD5 million and Al Amir souq at KD1.5 million.

The ministry has implemented a number of vital projects during 1988 for the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Commerce.

The Projects Department is currently implementing a number of projects for 12 ministries and government authorities.

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Harlem Globetrotters vs Washington Generals (USA)

Basketball match between the two teams will be held May 16 and 17 at 8.00 pm at the Al Arabi Club in Kuwait. Tickets will be available soon at the Kuwait International hotel and the Al Arabi club. Tickets are priced at KD3.5 and 7. Pictured above are the Harlem Globetrotters who are due to make their Gulf debut during their Winston Arab World tour.

## Poultry farmers face shortages

CHAIRMAN of Poultry Raisers Society and Deputy Chairman of Agricultural Productive Co-operative Societies Mussa Al Suwarej was quoted as saying that the most prominent problem facing poultry raisers is the shortage in production.

In an interview with a local daily, the official clarified that raisers were suffering shortage of chicks, fodder, drugs and veterinary services which are vital to the industry.

He called on the officials to extend necessary support to the poultry industry which became an important factor in realising

food security. The authority, is striving to provide these requirements to raisers at reasonable prices, he added.

Speaking of the daily production of chickens and eggs by Kuwaiti raisers, the official said that for the time being the society has no updated figures. According to statistics held in 1987, the daily production of chickens was 87 tons and imports amounted to 102 tons per day during the same year. He disclosed that the local production covered about 49 per cent of the national needs.

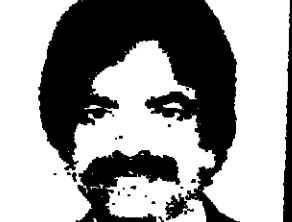
With regard to eggs production, the official said local production amounted to 57 tons

per day in 1986 while imports amounted to 42 tons daily during the same year.

He called on the Kuwait Municipality and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to increase the number of chicken shops allocated for the Society of Poultry Raisers to minimise the expenses incurred by the society.

Speaking of the recent meeting of the society's general assembly, which was attended by 144 members he said that the meeting had adopted several decisions including enhancing the society's contribution in the afforestation and greening process of the country as well as the spring camps.

## OBITUARY



John Joseph Thomas Silvera

Ex-employee of MCR Expired on 3rd May 1989

Inserted by his sorrowful brothers: Manuel, Nicholas; sisters-in-law: Helen, Cecilia (Deceased); Nephews and nieces: Thomas, Sharon, Rita, Casey, Pablo

Cousins of Susan and Mary Fernandez.

Mass will be held at the Holy Family Cathedral on 9th May at 5.15 pm.

Body will be flown to Bombay.

May His Soul Rest in Peace

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# ARAB TIMES

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GIVE a man a fish and he eats for a day, teach him how to fish and he eats for a lifetime — old Chinese proverb.

## Big brother is annoyed

India, Nepal trade war

By Earleen Fisher

A RESTRAINED sort of friction has set in at this crossing point between India, the political and military giant of South Asia, and tiny, landlocked Nepal.

For more than a month, Nepal has been defying and exasperating India by refusing to renegotiate trade agreements on India's terms.

As a result, India has imposed a partial blockade, and Nepal is suffering from severe shortages of fuel needed to operate motor vehicles, provide electrical power and cook food. Medicine, baby food and other essential goods also are in short supply.

The problem is as tangled as the traffic jam of bullock carts, horse-powered rickshaws trying to negotiate the narrow wooden bridge over the Sirisiri River without hooves and wheels getting stuck in the crack between the creaking planks.

The bullocks' long, pointed horns scrape and snag on the rickshaws' cloth canopies, much as the government officials in new Delhi and Kathmandu are scraping and snagging in the political impasse. At the border, however, contact remains cordial enough between Indian and Nepali officials as a diminished flow of traffic crosses the frontier.

India, population 880 million, perceives Nepal as an ungrateful neighbour, seeking preferential treatment for itself while refusing to grant India reciprocal privileges.

Nepal, population 17 million, sees India as a bit of a bully, trying to thwart Nepalese efforts to diversify its trading partners.

Officially speaking, the Indian blockade is not total. Practically speaking, its effects come close to being total.

"This is not a blockade. You can see the trucks are moving," customs collector Asit Mitra said in the Indian border town of Raxaul as a score of vehicles lumbered over the bridge to Nepal, hauling bulbar bags of salt, cases of baby formula and brand new but empty tanks for cooking gas.

"The goods are coming in, but not as they were," said Mayor Vimal Srivastav, five kilometres (three miles) up the road in the Nepalese town of Birganj.

At the Birganj customs yard, the goods are unloaded from Indian trucks. But the porters are sleeping in the midday heat atop the cartons they normally would be transferring to Nepalese trucks.

The diesel and gasoline to run the trucks 120 kilometres (75 miles) north to Kathmandu, the Nepalese capital, no longer arrive from India, itself a net importer of petroleum products.

"It's like you get the torch (flashlight), but not the battery," said Pashupati Shaha, a hotel owner in Birganj.

When the bilateral trade and transit treaties expired on March 23 with more replacements in the offing, India closed 13 of the 15 official crossing points on the 1,750-kilometre (1,093-mile) border. Only Raxaul and Joghani remain open.

Nepal wanted to renegotiate the two treaties separately, one governing trade with India, the other covering vital transit rights from Calcutta to the border for non-Indian imports. India sought a single treaty to safeguard its own trade with Nepal.

Despite the treaty troubles, Nepalese and Indians continue to move cordially, albeit slowly and only one way at a time, across the Sirisiri bridge. One of the score of Indian customs guards on the Raxaul side signals his lone Nepalese counterpart on the Birganj side when it's time to alternate the flow.

"The problem's not here. The problem's with the governments," a young Indian customs officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Shaha, in a separate conversation, agreed.

"We can't think of India and ourselves being separate," he said. "We are brothers in language, culture and Hindu religion. But the big brother is still a big brother and the small brother is still a small brother."

Nepal has little to offer foreign trading partners, apart from goatskins and a few spices. But it imports an array of machinery, housewares, textiles and food in addition to pharmaceutical and petrochemical products.

For the last two years, about 40 per cent of Nepal's imports were from India, down from 80 per cent 15 years ago.

Especially of concern to India are recent Nepalese efforts to expand trade with China, India's long-term regional rival and the only other country with direct land access to Nepal.

India's pique heightened last fall when Nepal bought anti-aircraft guns and other weapons from China, prompting two questions in New Delhi: why was Nepal making purchases from China, and why did the tiny Himalayan monarchy, which has about 35,000 men under arms compared with India's 1.4 million, need anti-aircraft guns, anyway?

Nepal considers its trade and defence needs its own business. "Trade has its own nature," Foreign Minister Shalendra Kumar Upadhyaya told a reporter in Kathmandu. "Trade will increase normally with which we receive a fair deal."

Further nettling the prickliness is Nepal's decision requiring the 150,000 Indians in Nepal to obtain work permits, while India has not made similar requirements of the estimated five million Nepalese in India.

In addition, Birganj had long been a shopper's delight for Indians, whose own country prides itself on self-sufficiency and imports little of the western and Japanese goods widely available in Nepal.

The Nepalese joke about their ability to sell just about anything with a foreign label to Indian visitors.

"You can blame Nepal for this," Shaha said. "The Indians can find some of these things cheaper in Calcutta and Madras, but they want to come to Nepal and buy. Some merchants import saris from India, stamp 'Made in Japan' on them, and the Indians are very happy to buy."

## PRESS REVIEW

### US unwilling

KUWAIT, May 7. (KUNA) The daily Al Rai Al Aam today lashed out at the United States for "not intending to play an effective role in the Middle East peace process."

In a front-page editorial, the paper noted that efforts aimed at achieving just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East were about to come to standstill as Washington so far was unwilling to push forward peace endeavours in the region.

The daily stated that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has managed, through the support of his American friends and allies to gain support for his proposal of holding municipal elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to stop progress towards a proposed international Middle East peace conference.

"The United States does not want to embarrass Israel or even to persuade it towards peace because Washington believes that Tel Aviv is passing through transitional stage with view of on-going heroic Palestinian uprising," the daily said.

It added that the United States was trying to cover the Israeli signs which sought crushing the Palestinian intifada by utilising the US-PLO dialogue.

"Political observers believe that the United States, like Israel, is trying to gain time so as to create obstacles and build psychological barriers before PLO's dialogue with the West European states," the paper said.

Al Rai Al Aam wondered "when will the United States realise that it would not deceive us and the world through the slogan that it is the defender of human rights and freedoms."

"The human rights of the Palestinians have been continuously violated in the occupied lands every day and every hour and minuted despite that slogan," the paper concluded.

## INSIDE WASHINGTON By Henry Brandon

# Bush in a dilemma over Gorbachev's 'quick fix' remedies

THE greatest surprise in current informal behind-the-scenes discussion between American and Soviet experts has been the latter's emphasis on the speed for reaching agreements on the reductions of conventional forces in Europe.

Soviet arms control experts visiting Washington have been saying that the forthcoming talks in Vienna, dealing with conventional arms reductions, will be slow in producing results because all the members of NATO and Warsaw Pact will be participating. They are therefore hinting at the need for the United States and the Soviet Union to hold separate and secret talks.

Gorbachev, no doubt, wants to move forward fast, and for two basic reasons. Perestroika, his economic reforms, have proved to be a failure, at least so far. The Soviet economy today is in worse shape than it was when he came to power. He has also admitted that the Soviet budget deficit is staggering and needs to be cut. He has therefore ordered drastic cuts of the costs of the military forces, especially conventional ones and the conversion of many factories producing military weapons to producing civilian goods.

Fortune

The Soviet leader, no doubt, is well aware that his personal political fortunes depend on the success of perestroika. He is also well aware that two years after the introduction of his economic reforms the standards of living of the Soviet citizenry have not improved, if anything, they have worsened.

Glasnost, his way of introducing a certain amount of democratic procedures into Soviet society, has been popular and has helped to sustain his popularity. But unless perestroika succeeds this popularity will not last.

It could be argued that Cheney has an axe to grind as secretary of defence, for he will have to defend his military budget and the need for the continued presence of American troops when he testifies before Congress. There is also a growing concern here that many Europeans believe that the Soviet military threat is declining and that the deterrent, which kept the peace for some 40 years, is becoming obsolete.

Gorbachev's siren songs, the casualties caused by NATO plane air crashes and the presence of so many foreign troops crowding West Germany, have all contributed to anti-NATO feelings among West Germans. Recent local election results and opinion polls are a clear indication that these feelings are contributing to Chancellor Kohl's declining political fortunes.

In proposing direct negotiations with the Soviets about the removal of all short-range nuclear missiles he is, above all, seeking to save his political skin. It has enraged American officials who are afraid that if they gave in to his demands, it would set a bad precedent, it would weaken NATO and the security of the West.

Whether the Bush administration or Thatcher's remonstrations will succeed in intimidating Kohl remains to be seen, but if they fail and rely on a vote in NATO to force the West German chancellor into line, it is not only going to hurt NATO but also their prestige. And if Kohl loses the forthcoming elections, he will blame it on American and British pressures. His defeat may hurt NATO even more than his request for negotiations with the Soviets. At any rate, Gorbachev must be delighted watching the repercussions of his proposals on NATO unity.

The Bush administration, in view of all these developments, would like to slow down the pace of Gorbachev's initiatives. But this will not be easy for it will be accused of unresponsiveness to proposals that have created the impression that the Soviet leader is anxious to advance the cause of peace. He has made it clear, for instance, that Soviet military strategy, which he has admitted was geared to offensive action, has been switched to a defensive posture. Bush is still a popular President with a 58 per cent approval rating according to a New York Times poll. However, if he suffered a black eye at the next NATO summit meeting late in May, it would hurt his prestige as a world leader. In the eyes of the world he is still an unknown figure. The main complaint I have heard on a recent visit to Europe is that he does not project the strength of a world leader.

Style

Bush admits that personal style is important. In his view that involves reaching out to other people. And so he seeks to prove that he reaches out to foreign statesmen, to reporters with whom he meets privately or at press conferences, to members of Congress all of whom — and this is unique — have been for some sort of a chat in the White House, to students whose classes he likes to join, sitting with them on their benches, answering questions. Being an elitist, born to wealth, educated in the best schools and enjoying the company of the very rich, he wants to be seen as a populist who likes to mix with everybody, high and low, rich and poor. It is an attitude that does not exactly appeal to the elitists or to the populists.

The outstanding impression he has created so far is that he is well informed, capable of discussing any issue off-the-cuff, that he is a caring human being, fair-minded and open to persuasion, especially by his wife Barbara who in a very short time has won an extraordinary amount of sympathy and admiration. Bush has also proved that he knows how to surround himself with able people. What he has not proved as yet is that he is imbued with a sense of mission, that he has an agenda and that he is clearly in command. What he has done with considerable skill is to move policies away from Reagan's. By that I mean that he has shifted them from extremes closer to the centre. What he has not yet done — and that may be a matter of time — is to show that he has in him the force of leadership, that seeking the lowest common denominator is not his principal goal.

It is being said that anti-Americanism in Europe is on the rise and that Gorbachev is seen as the strongest and most popular leader in the world

## No longer 'sick man' of North Africa

# Tunisia's economic revival

A VISITOR to Tunisia familiar with its past reputation as the "sick man" of North Africa might be pardoned these days for doing a double-take.

The 17 months since the fall of the country's autocratic founding patriarch, Habib Bourguiba, have witnessed a veritable "Tunisian spring" of political liberalisation.

More striking has been a re-orientation away from three decades of state socialism that has retrieved Tunisia's economy from near collapse three years ago and helped produce the highest economic growth rate in North Africa.

Economists partly credit the turnaround to the International Monetary Fund which, in return for a \$259 million loan three years ago, forced Tunisia to reduce its deficits and public spending.

Diplomacy has also played a part. Following the restoration of relations with Tripoli early last year, Libyan tourists surged across the Tunisian border, spending \$600 million on consumer goods unavailable at home.

The centrepiece of the recovery programme has been a package of economic reforms that promise to make Tunisia one of the most liberal economies in the Arab world.

This combination of factors has produced impressive results: exports, remittances, and foreign currency reserves all increased in 1987 and 1988, while tourism soared. Last year Tunisia recorded its first balance of payments surplus since gaining independence in 1956.

Improving economic condi-

tions have fuelled aspirations that Tunisia might some day replace Lebanon as a key financial link between the Arab world and Europe.

"Our ambition is to make out of Tunisia a financial and trade centre," says the head of the country's central bank, Ismael Khalil. Khalil says all the elements are in place to make such hopes a reality: stability, favourable investment laws, an entrepreneurial private sector, and an economic foot in the doors of Europe, the Maghreb, the Arab world, and even sub-Saharan Africa.

Hopes of becoming the next Beirut in a financial sense have been nourished by the recent decision of New York's Citibank to open a branch in Tunis, a move Tunisians point to as a sign of investor confidence.

One big step was lowering the value of Tunisia's currency. An artificially high exchange rate was good for the politically influential middle class because it made luxury imports affordable. But it hurt local producers, whose goods were priced out of foreign markets and who were thus forced to sell to the much smaller domestic market.

"We realised that if we were to speed up growth we needed to rely on external markets," says Khalil, of the government's decision to re-orient the Tunisian economy toward exports.

In three years Tunisia has dismantled barriers and created incentives to foreign investment, allowed the market to set most domestic prices, eased trade restrictions, and even allowed private banks to take over the job of setting interest rates.



Mikhail Gorbachev

Just a tempest in a teapot

# Cheney rapped for Gorbachev gaffe

By Gene Gibbons

DEFENCE Secretary Dick Cheney has been publicly slapped down for giving a gloomy forecast of Mikhail Gorbachev's long-term prospects, but US officials insist there is no real split in the Bush administration.

"This is a tempest in a teapot. There's no daylight at all between Cheney and the White House," a senior national security official said.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said Cheney was unwise to publicly predict Gorbachev would fail in his reform drive and be replaced by a more hostile Soviet leader.

But he said the Pentagon chief reflected a view that is widely shared by government policymakers.

"Cheney, like President (George) Bush and Secretary of State (James) Baker and (National Security Adviser Brent) Scowcroft, has come to believe that Gorbachev is very sincere about trying to restructure the Soviet economy and society," the official said.

"But, based on 70 years of modern Soviet history, the country's almost intractable economic problems and the entrenched bureaucracy Gorbachev faces, you wouldn't give very long odds on his survival," he added.

Bush distanced himself from that view in a speech to the US Chamber of Commerce,

saying he believed Gorbachev's reform drive "will continue."

"Even the socialist world is beginning to see that socialism isn't just another economic system — it's the death of economics," Bush said.

The new President has generally been more wary of changes in the Soviet Union than was former President Ronald Reagan, counselling prudence and caution. But he has recently softened his tone somewhat.

"I made clear to Gorbachev up there in New York — Governor's Island — when we met that we wanted to see perestroika succeed and likewise we wanted to see success for the economic reforms in China," Bush said, referring to last December's meeting between him, Reagan and the Soviet leader.

The flap started with some controversial comments by the outspoken Cheney in a television interview. Asked about Gorbachev's chances of political survival, the former Congressman from Wyoming replied:

"I would guess that he (Gorbachev) would ultimately fail. That is to say he will not be able to reform the Soviet economy... and then when that happens, he's likely to be replaced by somebody who will be far more hostile."

Some analysts have suggested Cheney was trying to dampen euphoria in Congress and

of today. On my recent visit to Europe I found, somewhat to my surprise, that anti-Americanism is on the decline, but for reasons I had not expected. Europeans now see American power less overwhelming, as they do not feel that the American economy or financial superiority is as challenging as it used to be. They also feel themselves being stronger politically and economically and more capable of resisting American pressure.

As usual, the Europeans also suffer from a certain amount of schizophrenia. They complain that President Bush does not project the kind of strong personality essential for a world leader and they appear

to be very worried that Mikhail Gorbachev, in whose peaceful intentions they seem to have a good deal of faith, will be overthrown sooner rather than later. Certainly, Bush deserves to be given more time to develop his leadership qualities, especially since he is well aware of the general uncertainty about whether he is decisive. At a recent social occasion, he showed his sense of humour when he delivered a lighthearted speech and said: "People say that I am not decisive... well, I don't know about that." His chief-of-staff, John Sununu, puts it differently. He says that the President prefers the kind of continuity that helps to expand tranquility in the world.

Europe over Gorbachev's peace offensive, fearing it will lead to defence budget cuts and a split in Atlantic alliance.

West Germany's call for prompt talks with the Soviet Union on short-range nuclear missiles has jeopardised chances of a harmonious NATO summit in Brussels later this month and some US legislators are calling for greater defence cuts than the administration wants.

But an administration official said speculation that Cheney had a hidden agenda was "complete and utter hogwash."

"I don't think that (his comments) was a long thought out and carefully calculated response," the official said.

Another administration official said while Cheney "went a little further" than he should have publicly, the administration was not divided on how to respond to Gorbachev.

"Everyone agrees we have to be prudent in dealing with the Soviet Union and not forget the superpower competition," this official said. "We'll just take it a day at a time."

Cheney's office had no comment on the foreign policy flap that erupted as the Bush administration neared completion of its long-awaited strategic review.

"As far as the secretary is concerned, the matter is closed," Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard said. (Reuters)

saying he believed Gorbachev's reform drive "will continue."

"Even the socialist world is beginning to see that socialism isn't just another economic system — it's the death of economics," Bush said.

The new President has generally been more wary of changes in the Soviet Union than was former President Ronald Reagan, counselling prudence and caution. But he has recently softened his tone somewhat.

"I made clear to Gorbachev up there in New York — Governor's Island — when we met that we wanted to see perestroika succeed and likewise we wanted to see success for the economic reforms in China," Bush said, referring to last December's meeting between him, Reagan and the Soviet leader.

The flap started with some controversial comments by the outspoken Cheney in a television interview. Asked about Gorbachev's chances of political survival, the former Congressman from Wyoming replied:

"I would guess that he (Gorbachev) would ultimately fail. That is to say he will not be able to reform the Soviet economy... and then when that happens, he's likely to be replaced by somebody who will be far more hostile."

Some analysts have suggested Cheney was trying to dampen euphoria in Congress and

to be very worried that Mikhail Gorbachev, in whose peaceful intentions they seem to have a good deal of faith, will be overthrown sooner rather than later. Certainly, Bush deserves to be given more time to develop his leadership qualities, especially since he is well aware of the general uncertainty about whether he is decisive. At a recent social occasion, he showed his sense of humour when he delivered a lighthearted speech and said: "People say that I am not decisive... well, I don't know about that." His chief-of-staff, John Sununu, puts it differently. He says that the President prefers the kind of continuity that helps to expand tranquility in the world.

# 'Ozal's days are numbered'

Turkish opposition scents victory

By John Owen-Davies

MAJOR political figures from Turkey's turbulent past are looking confidently to the future as Prime Minister Turgut Ozal struggles to hold his ruling Motherland Party together.

Suleyman Demirel, prime minister for 10 of the years between 1965 and 1980 and twice ousted by the Army, once again has the scent of victory.

Also back in the reckoning are staunch anti-communist Alparslan Turkes, Muslim fundamentalist Necmettin Erbakan and Social Democrat Bulent Ecevit, who became a national hero when he sent troops to Cyprus in 1974.

Ozal came to power in 1983, three years after a military coup. The 1980 coup was launched to end extremist political violence in the late 1970s which claimed more than 5,000 lives.

Demirel, who was among many politicians held by the Army after the coup, is hoping to cash in on a humiliating defeat for Ozal's Motherland Party in local elections in March.

"Ozal's days are numbered. He cannot last much longer," said Demirel, pursuing a campaign for early general elections.

The Motherland won just over a fifth of the national vote in the municipal polls, trailing behind Demirel's centre-right True Path Party and the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP).

Demirel, 64, said that about 100 deputies in Ozal's factionalised party were members of his old Justice Party and were ready to rejoin him.

All pre-1980 parties were dissolved by the military, which allowed only three new parties to contest the general elections in 1983.

"I don't have any ill-feeling for the military and the military does not have any ill-feeling for me," Demirel said. "I am a Democrat. I believe in the power of the people. I love my people. That is the reason for my success."

In a country where two-thirds of the electorate regularly votes right of centre, Demirel, who now controls 58 seats in the 450-member parliament, believes early general elections would work to his advantage.

He firmly ruled out co-operation with Ozal, 61, his former protégé, saying: "I would not do a deal with him... we are not friends now. We just exchange 'hellos'."

Demirel was asked if he would once again offer cabinet jobs to Turkes and Erbakan to help to ensure a workable government, as he did in 1977 when both were deputy premiers.

"I don't think there will be a necessity," he replied, adding that their right-wing parties were unlikely to poll the 10 per cent of the vote needed to gain parliamentary seats.

Senior Western diplomats, some of whom have been a path to Demirel's office since the March polls, said he had already started talks with Turkes, now in his 70s.

Erbakan, 63, and to an extent Turkes, are anathema to the Army which regards itself as guardian of the democratic and secular vision of modern Turkey's founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

Erbakan's Welfare Party (RP) took 9.8 per cent of the vote in March, followed by Ecevit's Democratic Left Party with 8.9 per cent and Turkes' nationalists with 4.1 per cent.

Such small but significant support could help any of the three major parties to gain a parliamentary majority, for which about one-third of the national vote is needed.

Turkes is identified with the grey wolves, an underground rightist group blamed for some of the fiercest extremist street battles of the 1970s.

"In the 1970s, universities in Turkey were organised for a communist uprising," Turkes said last year.

"Communism is an ideology. Only a stronger ideology can beat it, hence the setting up of the grey wolves. But it was infiltrated by intelligence agents and the fighting started," he said. The grey wolf is the symbol of Turkish nationalism.

Ecevit, 64, who ordered Turkish troops into North Cyprus in 1974 after a short-lived Greek-inspired coup in Nicosia, sees himself as standard-bearer of Turkey's true social democrats.

He alternated three times as prime minister with Demirel in the 1970s during a period of weak coalition governments and has refused to enter any deal with the SHP, which embraces leftists.

But most political eyes are on Demirel, who draws massive crowds in the countryside. "I am not saying that I never made mistakes," said Demirel, forced into a humiliating foreign debt rescheduling in 1979-80.



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

External trade loans continue to decline in Kuwait, UAE and Qatar

## Gulf banks expanding their trade finance business

TRADE finance in the Middle East region is changing. Not only are more markets switching from cash to credit to finance imports, but also new forms of trade finance are being sought after by exporters and importers including non-recourse forfaiting, Islamic financing and various counter-trade arrangements according to the chief economist of GIB, Henry T. Azzam.

Demand for medium term financing is expanding and the provision of financial packages is becoming more complex.

Exporters to the region anxious to maintain a presence in the market have increasingly provided financing and counter-trade proposals in their bids for major contracts or to secure export markets.

The region's markets today are far more competitive than what they used to be before, and changes recorded in the size and nature of these markets in recent years have important consequences for foreign suppliers.

Shifts have taken place in the balance between demand for capital and intermediate goods and demand for finished consumer goods, largely as a result of the industrialisation drive.

With the completion of the massive infrastructural schemes of the 1970s, the demand for construction related items has declined.

Most new projects, with a few notable exceptions, are on a much smaller scale.

At the same time however, demand is growing for replacement items, because of the need to maintain the new industries and basic infrastructure.

A further change has involved the methods of conducting business, especially now that price is no longer a secondary consideration to the quality of the specialisation as was the case during the boom years of the '70s and early '80s.

GIB monthly publication said that during the period 1983-86 total merchandise imports of the six Gulf states declined by more than 38 per cent due mainly to contractionary domestic factors. GDP of various Gulf countries have shrunk by more than 40 per cent during this period, while roads, airports, ports, universities, power stations, heavy industrial plants and other major construction projects were in the

completion stage.

There has also been a limited impact from import substitution, particularly in the construction, agriculture and light industries sectors.

For example, the region is now self sufficient in cement and Saudi Arabia has turned from being a major importer of wheat in the early '80s to becoming a net exporter.

**Problems**

There has been a slight turnaround in economic activities in 1987 and 1988 with positive growth being recorded in these two years. The compression of imports which went on for four years was reversed in 1987 with a larger increase recorded in 1988.

While oil exports moved slightly higher in the last two years, non-oil exports posted a much larger increase, rising in the case of Saudi Arabia by 46 per cent in 1988 and 10 per cent in the case of Bahrain. Saudi Arabia is by far the largest market in the region accounting for 53 per cent of total GCC imports, followed by UAE (19 per cent) of which a good part is re-exported, Kuwait (13 per cent), Bahrain (7 per cent), Oman (5 per cent) and Qatar (3 per cent).

There are little or no financial constraints restricting trade flows in the Gulf. The GCC states do not suffer from problems of external indebtedness that adversely affect many developing countries.

In fact, external trade debt has fallen considerably over the last several years, from \$7.15 billion in 1986 to \$6.5 billion in 1987 and by June 1988 stood at \$4.9 billion less than five per cent of the region's GDP in 1987.

Most of the contraction was with non-bank guaranteed credits which fell to \$3.6 billion by June 1988 from \$5.1 billion in 1986.

Bank trade credit has risen slightly during this time to over \$1.2 billion. Domestic bank debt incurred by the trade sector of the Gulf has also largely remained stagnant.

Debt outstanding was just over \$15 billion in 1987 up from \$14.4 billion in 1986.

Despite the changes brought about by the recession in the region, the Gulf economies are still quite open to trade and have few import restrictions either in the form of tariffs or quotas.

Export earnings comfortably covered all import payments

during the last decade, and although there are some balance of payment pressures due to the generally weak oil prices of the last few years, there is a reluctance to restrict imports through the imposition of controls.

Gulf openness to trade has deepened cultural roots as well as being necessitated by the nature of the region's resource base. For example, there is no need for protection to safeguard employment as labour shortages are still the major constraints for development.

It is true there are few infant industries that need to be protected, however, the loss of opportunities to exporters due to import substitution is very small compared to the overall Gulf imports.

Furthermore, tariffs would raise prices for consumers and in societies where the interests of consumers are paramount, such rises are extremely unwelcome.

Algeria, Libya, Iran and Iraq are heavily engaged in oil counter-trade. A declaration of willingness to accept oil as a means of payment is often required in bids for contracts in most of these countries.

Several exporters to the region

either seek or at least accept payment in oil for the goods supplied.

For example Brazil has very extensive oil counter-trade arrangements in order to boost its local industries, maintain imports of oil and conserve foreign exchange.

Western industries striving to maintain their own market shares and who need the business may also accept payment in oil.

**Protection**

The report said generally speaking, the energy producer will seek to sell at official prices, yet the market value of the oil when lifted over a number of years may be significantly lower than the official price, as had happened in 1986.

Since it is difficult if not impossible to sell the crude forward more than a few months, there is a potential loss that may be incurred in oil counter-trade deals.

Some protection for the supplier to the energy producer can be obtained by entering into an "advance purchase" contract.

Under such an arrangement, the supplier will take delivery of (Continued on Page 10, Col. 1)

Pace of adjustment stalling

## Swift action needed on trade imbalances

WASHINGTON, May 7, (Reuters): Senior Treasury officials, sensing growing frustration in Congress about the US trade gap, on Friday, urged swift action to tackle global economic imbalances and warned of financial instability if no progress is made.

But, at a hearing of the Senate Banking Committee, the officials declined to back suggestions that the dollar should fall further to give US exporters an edge in world markets.

"The exchange rates we've had in recent months... and the stability in exchange markets has been welcome to us," said Treasury Undersecretary-designate David Mulford.

The dollar has been climbing steadily in recent days on the back of high US interest rates. It climbed further on Friday as dealers read Mulford's remarks as implicitly endorsing the higher levels.

**Competitive**

"The dollar is quite competitive at this stage," Mulford said. But he also stressed that an April 2 statement by the Group of Seven industrial democracies opposing a rise in the dollar remained valid.

"That would be our position today," Mulford said.

He said progress in reducing the US trade deficit, and the mirror-image surpluses of Japan, West Germany, South Korea and Taiwan, was continuing despite the slight strengthening of the dollar in recent months.

But he acknowledged the pace of adjustment was stalling and said it was a matter of the highest priority for the Treasury to restore momentum to the process.

Further cuts in the budget deficit would be a crucial part of this process, Mulford said.

The recent bipartisan budget accord for 1990, which would cut

the deficit to less than \$100 billion, was an important step. But unless the pact was implemented in a credible manner, Washington's allies would conclude that global adjustment was stalling and there would be an adverse market reaction, he said.

Mulford was echoed by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, who made a brief appearance at the start of hearing. "Our trading partners are sceptical. They want to see the proof, in terms of further reductions in the deficit," Brady said.

**Efforts**

"Our efforts to get other countries to make the hard domestic choices that are necessary will succeed only if the United States demonstrates leadership and does its part by reducing the federal budget deficit," he added.

Mulford said that unless the US trade deficit comes down, the nation's \$500-billion debt burden will continue to rise, exacting a heavy economic price.

"If that (debt) burden becomes too heavy and long-lived, it also becomes a major political problem" because it impinges on the United States' ability to lead, Mulford added.

It was clear from remarks by several senators that political feelings are already running high because of the trade deficit, which was \$120 billion in 1988.

Senator John Kerry spoke of a mood of "deepening anger and impatience" both in Congress and across the country.

Senator Larry Pressler said there was a "growing clamour at the grass-roots" about international trade.

Committee chairman Donald Riegle said he was alarmed that improvement on the trade front had stalled and said he hoped the threat to sanctions under the 1988 trade act would spur renewed progress.

## Thatcher 'lubricated' arms deal with Malaysia

LONDON, May 7, (KUNA): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was personally responsible for using the UK's overseas aid budget to secure a £1 billion arms deal with Malaysia, according to a report here today.

The Observer newspaper said Thatcher had "lubricated" the deal involving Tornado fighters, artillery, and radar and anti-aircraft systems, with the promise of increased civil aid amounting to £100 million.

While noting firm official denials of any link, the weekly quoted "senior Whitehall sources" who admitted that the deal was "a classic case of the time of the arms agreement, signed last September by Thatcher and Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahatir Mohammad.

It further quoted an "informed source" who said he was "appalled" that Thatcher had "perverted" the overseas aid budget.

The Observer said the deal had also involved the payment of at least £1 million in compensation to British Airways, after the Malaysian government threatened to cancel the deal unless its national airline was granted extra landing rights at Heathrow.

The Malaysian deal "shares a number of common features" with a series of recent international UK arms deals, added the paper.

It claimed that secretive weapons sales with a variety of states, including Ecuador, India, China and New Zealand, involved "large kickback payments, Third World barter deals and uncontrolled subsidies from the British taxpayer.

## Businessman faces fraud charges

COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 7, (AP): FBI agents arrested an Egyptian businessman after he tried to deposit \$1.5 million in checks allegedly drawn illegally from a Cairo bank that froze his assets last fall, authorities said.

Yehia Abou-Arram, 39, was arrested and charged Friday with trying to defraud the Huntington National Bank in suburban upper Arlington, said FBI agent Dave Hanna.

Hanna said Abou-Arram also was accused of living illegally in the United States since his six-month visa expired in August 1988.

Abou-Arram, who had opened an account with more than \$50,000 cash, visited the bank Monday and deposited a check from the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in Cairo for the Egyptian equivalent of \$750,000, the FBI said.

Abou-Arram returned Tuesday with another check for the same amount. But they became suspicious and notified the FBI, whose agents arrived and arrested him, Hanna said.

An investigation showed the Cairo bank had frozen Abou-Arram's account in November based on an investigation of his import-export business there, the FBI said.

## France voices support for Iraq

Baghdad gears up development in various fields

PARIS, May 7, (KUNA): Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr Sadoun Hamadi said on Friday his recent talks here tackled re-assessment of economic co-operation between Iraq and France and ways of resolving "certain suspended issues."

Interviewed by KUNA following his three-day official visit to Paris, Dr Hamadi emphasised that Iraq and France have established long-term economic ties, despite the current situation. "For this reason, it was necessary for the two countries to re-evaluate these ties from time to time," he said.

After the ceasefire with Iran, he went on, Iraq started reconstruction of war-devastated areas and gearing up development in various fields, especially industrial ones.

This was the centrepiece of his discussions with President Francois Mitterrand last Tuesday, Dr Hamadi told KUNA, and added "there was complete agreement and re-affirmation of principles

of bilateral economic co-operation with a pledge from France to effectively contribute to Iraq's developmental programmes."

The Iraqi minister pointed out that the technical delegation accompanying him has held lengthy discussions with French government officials on many of suspended technical issues and managed to resolve greatest part of them.

On the Iraqi demand for re-scheduling Baghdad's debts due to France, Dr Hamadi briefly said "a fairly good progress had been made on this issue and the two sides decided to solve it."

He said his talks with the French Finance Minister, Pierre Bergeyrov, were confined to financial and economic matters only, while deliberations with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, dealt with bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

He indicated that he had explained to President Mitterrand Iraq's stances towards Geneva-based peace negotia-

tions with Iran, the Lebanese crisis and the efforts of the Arab League six-man committee for resolving it, besides Iraqi-French co-operation in political spheres.

**Position**

Dr Hamadi said he found "full understanding on the French side to Iraq's position regarding the Lebanese conflict." The two sides agreed, upon the need to secure Lebanon's unity and to avert the Arab country threat of partition, Hamadi disclosed.

On the forthcoming summit meeting of the Arab co-operation Council, ACC, which comprises Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen Arab Republic, Dr Hamadi said the meeting would focus on internal structural organisation of the ACC's general secretariat and the appointment of an ACC secretary general.

He said there were no discussions on admittance of new Arab states to the ACC membership, but he added that the gathering is open to all Arab countries.

Move to revive economy

## Yugoslavia to slash spending

TUCEPI, Yugoslavia, May 7, (Reuters): Prime Minister Ante Markovic pledged on Friday to slash public spending and tighten the money supply in an effort to curb Yugoslavia's runaway inflation and review the economy.

"In the next two weeks or so, we are going to restrict public spending significantly to limits that many people will not like," Markovic said.

"We will also undertake a very rigid monetary policy. The issue of money will be put under control," he told a news conference in the Adriatic resort of Tucepi.

Markovic, who took office in March and is the man chiefly responsible for running Yugoslavia's economy, said these reforms and others would save the government the equivalent of up to \$2 billion.

"We will channel the savings into development rather than spending," he said. "As for the results, we will have to see."

Markovic said some market-based reforms already in place,

such as a commitment not to restrict wages and prices, would have the short-term effect of feeding inflation, which last month soared to a record 490 per cent.

**Decrease**

He said average salaries had fallen in real terms by almost 10 per cent last year and some workers could suffer a further decrease as enterprises came under pressure to link wages to performance.

"There is no motivation in an egalitarian system. We must be able to distinguish between those who work well and those who do not," he said.

"Some people's standard of living will rise and perhaps for some it will fall."

Living standards have already plummeted to the lowest levels since the late 1960s and unemployment stands at about 15 per cent.

Markovic said the government did not plan to replace the dinar with a new currency to help the fight against inflation, but it

might re-denominate the dinar. A similar move was made in 1965 when 100 old dinars were converted into one new dinar.

Asked about the situation in Kosovo province where 24 people died in March in clashes between police and ethnic Albanian demonstrators, Markovic said the atmosphere was calming down and a curfew and other restrictions on freedom of movement would soon be lifted.

**Tried**

"Very shortly all detainees against whom there is no evidence will be freed. Others will be tried," he said.

About 650 people were arrested during the riots, which flared when Kosovo accepted a reduction of its autonomy in favour of Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic. Many were quickly sentenced to jail terms of up to 60 days.

Other Yugoslav officials have predicted that emergency measures in force in Kosovo would soon be lifted, but none has given a precise date.

## Dollar hits 8-month high

NEW YORK, May 7, (Reuters): The dollar rallied to eight-month highs on Friday, defying five straight days of intervention, while bonds surged and Wall Street stocks ended mixed on news that the US job growth slowed sharply last month.

Gold prices fell to 32-month lows against the strong dollar, while oil futures shed 56 cents in dull trading. Stocks rose in Europe on news of a slowing US economy.

The nation's jobless rate rose to 5.3 per cent in April from a 15-year low of 5.0 per cent in March, the government said in the morning. New non-farm payroll jobs grew by only 117,000, sharply

lower than forecasts of 200,000. Prospects for a cooling economy, and thus lower interest rates, initially pushed down the dollar and boosted bonds and Wall Street stocks. But the dollar later rallied on supportive comments by a senior US treasury official.

**Sales**

The dollar surpassed 1.90 West German marks, the top of the believed target range set by the Group of Seven industrial nations, shortly after the Federal Reserve led a concerted assault to brake its rally.

It closed at 1.8970 West German marks and 134.20 Japanese yen, up from Thursday's 1.8955

marks and 134.15 yen, despite sales by the Fed and at least four European central banks.

As the dollar draws strength from high US interest rates and strong investor demand, it is almost impervious to recent intervention, dealers said.

"The demand is so tremendous, there's little the Fed can do," said Robert Ryan of Irving Securities.

In addition, treasury undersecretary-designate David Mulford said Friday he welcomed the dollar's strength.

The Dow closed down 2.94 at 2,381.96, ending the week down 36.84 points and extending a losing streak to six days.

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## Gulf banks expanding their trade finance business

(Continued from page 9)

quantities of crude and sell it on the spot market.

Trade finance has till now constituted the core business of commercial banks in the Gulf.

During the past several years however, with import volumes falling in response to the region's general economic slowdown, commercial banks have watched their traditional trade finance business decline. Based on consolidated bank statements, commercial bank lending to the trade sectors in the six GCC states was on a declining trend during the period 1984-1986 before rising thereafter.

It dropped from \$16 billion in 1984 to \$15 billion in 1985 and \$14.4 billion in 1986.

In 1987 a modest recovery in Gulf banks' credit extended to the trade sector was recorded (\$14.8 billion). This coincided with the upturn in the region's total imports and the rise in non-oil exports which continued in 1988.

Major Western banks and non-bank creditors have played a relatively smaller role in financing GCC trade compared to Gulf banks, with trade related credit from outside the Gulf financing only 19.4 per cent of the region's total imports in 1987 compared to 35.4 per cent for Gulf banks.

Moreover, most of that external trade credit (66 per cent) has come from non-bank sources mainly guaranteed suppliers

credits. However, there has been a major upsurge in external trade credit to the Gulf since 1985 as suppliers and exporters armed with their export credits moved to gain a foothold in the Gulf market.

External trade related credit to the Gulf as a whole rose from \$6.1 billion in December 1985 to \$6.5 billion in 1986 before declining to \$4.8 billion in June 1988.

The rise in trade credit facilities in the last three years has largely been related to three Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain, with external trade loans continuing to decline in Kuwait, UAE and Qatar due mainly to the limited demand for such credit in these countries.

While oil is still the dominant export of the region which has limited needs for trade finance, non-oil exports have been on the rise during the last few years.

Last year, for example, Saudi Arabia's non-oil exports posted a phenomenal 45.8 per cent growth mainly due to the kingdom's rising petrochemical production.

Bahrain and UAE's non-oil exports, mainly aluminium light industries and petrochemical products, surged as well last year generating new opportunities for export finance for Gulf banks.

The booming re-export business to Iran boosted trade related banking activities (opening let-

ters of credits, issuing bills of exchange, etc.) especially in the UAE.

Furthermore, the recent upturn in Gulf countries' total imports after years of retrenchment increased opportunities of import finance in the region.

A noticeable rise across the board of import related activities has been recorded with banks in the Gulf being the main beneficiary of this upturn.

**Strategy**  
For Gulf banks, trade finance has become the investment strategy of the moment. Not only the internationally oriented Gulf banks, but also the smaller national banks as well as the Islamic banks, are expanding their trade finance business within and outside the region.

The smaller Gulf banks continue to express their reluctance to go beyond short-term documentary credit business with their own domestic markets and share in the large trade finance business only through their participation in syndicated loans.

In general, they are not keen on medium term finance, lacking both the capacity, administration and expertise to do so, the report said. The problem is that intense competition in the field has pared down fees on this business with rates, quality of service and personal attention increasingly determining customer selection of banks.

Islamic banks are becoming

increasingly competitive in the trade finance business with growing appeal to a non-Muslim client base seeking additional sources of finance.

A considerable boom to their business has been their overseas presence in London and other destinations in Europe, Asia and Africa. While deteriorating economic performance and rising balance of payment risks have reduced forfeiting opportunities in the Middle East in general, with forfeiters shying away from even the short-term deals, Arab Gulf countries continue to show promise in this area.

Forfeiting rates for the various Gulf countries are still quite competitive compared to those of other developing countries. The improvement in the region's external balances of the last two years has injected considerable optimism into the assessment of risk forfeiters hoping for an expansion of borrowing.

**Infrastructure**  
Most Gulf countries have their infrastructure in place and are unlikely to go for large scale commercial borrowing, but the individual import requirements for capital goods may provide the one-off opportunities best suited for forfeiting.

The report said that export financing has long been considered a key factor in determining the competitiveness of regional sup-

pliers and in promoting inter-regional flows of goods and services.

The establishment by the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IIGC) in 1986 of an Arab Export-Credit Guarantee Scheme, was the first step taken to expand intra-Arab trade.

The scheme covers commercial risks in addition to non-commercial risks which have been covered since 1983.

It is intended to make Arab exporters more competitive in the regional market by enabling them to quote better credit terms and offer finance for longer durations than has been possible hitherto.

It is also hoped that the scheme will induce more trade financing by Arab banks and financial institutions that have been reluctant to go into financing intra-Arab trade for lack of export-credit guarantees, among other things. Eligibility under the facility requires that goods must have at least 40 per cent value added from the Arab region; trade must be between Arab states; and the terms of payments covered must not exceed 180 days for commercial and non-commercial risk coverage.

Individual country ceilings are limited to IIGC's paid-up capital, of around \$75 million, which could be extended to include reserves, amounting to \$60 million.

## Call to expand private sector operations

BEIJING, May 7, (AP): Japan's Finance Minister Tatsuo Murayama, speaking Friday to a session of the Asian Development Bank, called on the bank to expand its private sector operations and promote market-oriented development in Asia.

Murayama, a member of the ADB board of governors, also said the regional lending institute should pay more attention to projects to preserve the environment.

Environmental protection, aid to Asia's poorest people and a proposal for a new ADB corporation for private-sector assistance were among the main topics on the second day of the three-day meeting.

More than 2,000 senior finance officials and bankers are attending the 22nd annual meeting, being held in China for the first time.

### Credit

Murayama said Japan, the ADB's main source of credit, hoped developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region would continue to promote market-oriented development strategies, including deregulation, fostering financial markets and improving the climate for direct foreign investment.

Developing countries should also improve their tax systems and reduce subsidies in order to make their industries more competitive internationally, he said.

He said he thought the growth of domestic demand in Japan and the increase in Japanese imports had contributed to the expansion of trade in the region.

Murayama also expressed support for the proposed Asian Finance and Investment Corporation (AFIC) as a means to expand the ADB's private-sector operations.

The AFIC, which would join the ADB with private financial institutions to assist private enterprises in developing countries, drew generally favourable comments from other speakers.

"We welcome the innovative proposal," said Indonesian Finance Minister J.B. Sumartono. The AFIC, he said, would offer "substantial additional external resources for the benefit of the DMC (Developing Member Country) private sector."

Murayama said the ADB should design projects specifically for environmental protection. "I am especially anxious about the devastation of the tropical forests and the natural disasters that result."

Japan's logging companies are often cited as a major cause of the denuding of Southeast Asia's forests.

South Korean Finance Minister Lee Kyu-Sung voiced agreement with the ADB's plans to give priority to its public sector lending to health, education, poverty alleviation and environmental protection.

"Since these investments will require huge amounts of concessional resources, the bank should consider the possibility of tapping into additional funding sources," he said.

The 47-member ADB last year approved a record \$3.15 billion in ordinary and concessional loans, up 29 per cent from 1987.

Indonesia's Sumartono also noted that Asia has 500 million poor people, and the ADB "should increasingly emphasise quality of life considerations in its future projects rather than just economic growth."

## Signs of slowing cheer Wall Street

NEW YORK, May 7, (AP): The notoriously picky people who invest in the stock market seldom act as happy about the state of the economy as they seem to be right now.

Wall Streeters wished for a slowdown in economic growth to take the pressure off inflation and interest rates. Signs are piling up that they are getting what they wanted.

But some observers question how long investors will stay happy over that set of circumstances.

"The rationale behind this way of thinking is that slower economic growth means reduced inflation pressures, which in turn mean lower interest rates," say analysts at Wright Investor's Service in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

"Stock prices, so the saying goes, are slaves of interest rates, so lower interest rates are good for the stock market."

### Problem

"But stocks serve two masters. They are also the slaves of earnings, and an economic slowdown would clearly have negative implications for corporate earnings. Today's stock market investors have yet to make this connection."

There is another problem, some analysts say, with the recent economic statistics that have been so warmly received on the Street.

### Inflation abating

Consider, for example, the surprise news on Friday that the civilian unemployment rate took a 0.3 percentage point jump in April, to 5.3 per cent.

While the data looked like a clear signal of slackening business conditions, they provided little accompanying evidence that inflation was abating as well.

Average hourly earnings, in fact, increased at an 8.5 per cent annual rate in April, according to the Labour Department report. So hopes remained subdued that the Federal Reserve can reverse course and relax its credit policy any time soon.

They may get a further test this Friday, when the monthly reading of the producer price index of finished goods is due to be made public. Then, on May 18, comes the consumer price index for April, which could represent another stumbling block for stocks.

In part because of higher energy prices, the Merrill Lynch market letter projects that the April consumer price index could be up 0.7 per cent to 0.9 per cent, compared with a 0.5 per cent increase in March.

Faced with such thoughts, the stock market's six-month-old rally flattened out in the past week. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials dropped 36.84 points to 2,381.96.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index lost .99 to 172.14, while the

NASDAQ composite index for the over-the-counter market rose 2.16 to 430.71 and the American Stock Exchange market value index gained 1.76 to 346.84.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 163.25 million shares a day, against 160.64 million the week before.

### Theory

Robert Brusca, economist at Nikko Securities International, says stocks appear to have benefited lately from what might be called "the eye of the needle" theory.

"This is the idea that the economy is slowing just enough for the bond market to rally, the Fed to ease, and corporate earnings to be little affected by the weakness," he said.

"Can the Fed truly steer this large, lumbering economy through such a narrow passage? That seems unlikely. But looking at the market's behaviour, apparently others attach different probabilities to this event than I do."

"If the slowdown is sharp and cumulates to a become a recession, the stock market is in for real trouble."

"The obvious problem would be corporate earnings, but the destabilising effect of low interest rates on the dollar is a factor too."

I wonder why the market is so optimistic," Brusca concluded, adding, "I had this same question around mid-1987."

### Purchase of US grain

## Moscow breaks annual record

WASHINGTON, May 7, (Reuters): The Soviet Union bought 200,000 tonnes of US corn and 120,000 tonnes of wheat on Friday, breaking its all-time record for annual corn and wheat purchases from the United States.

Combined purchases of the two crops total 19.1 million tonnes for the year ending in September - 15 million tonnes of corn and 4.1 million tonnes of wheat - said the US Agriculture Department, which announced the sales.

The previous record of 18.6 million tonnes was set in 1985.

The wheat sale was the first reported under a 1.5-million-tonne offer of subsidised wheat to Moscow approved last week by President George Bush. The department said it had accepted bids on subsidies for 300,000 tonnes of wheat, although not all of the sales tied to the bids have been officially reported.

A Soviet desire to meet public demand for food, a poor crop, and better relations with the United States are all likely contributors to the record sales, analysts said.

But the new record may not be a sign strong grain sales will continue.

"This is not a new trend, but it is a result of circumstances," said agriculture consultant John Schnitzler. "The Soviets buy what they need."

Despite the record purchases from the United States, the Soviet Union's total imports from the world are still expected to fall short of the record 55.5 million tonnes of grain imported in 1985.

The Agriculture Department projects that Moscow will buy 38 million tonnes of grain this year.

"We export most of the world's feedgrains, and (the Soviets) needed feedgrains this year," Schnitzler said. The

Soviet Union's grain crop was 195 million tonnes in 1988, the lowest in three years. A good crop next year would depress sales, he said.

In addition, he said, wheat crop shortfalls in Canada and Argentina handed the United States an extra share of the Soviet wheat market.

### Growth

One possible area for continued growth of US agricultural exports is high-protein oilseed meals used in animal feeds. The Soviet Union buys mostly corn and wheat from the United States, but it has indicated a desire to increase use of oilseed meals, said Ken Bader, chief executive officer of the American Soybean Association.

Soviet officials have said their total demand for oilseeds and meal could be by the year 2000 equal current US domestic use of about one billion bushels annually, Bader said.

## World economy may slow down in '89

UNITED NATIONS, May 7, (OPECNA): A session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) opened Tuesday with a warning that the world economy faced a slowdown during 1989.

Rafaeuddin Ahmed, Undersecretary General for International Economic and Social Affairs, said that world trade was expected to expand at a slower pace, and the demand for commodities was expected to fall, reducing the export earnings of

most developing countries. Efforts to combat inflation in developed countries were expected to cause real interest rates to rise, further aggravating the situation of the heavily indebted developing countries, he said.

There was considerable uncertainty regarding the severity of the slowdown, with some risk that the excessively restrictive monetary policies being followed by major countries could lead to a recession in 1990, Ahmed said. That could portend "serious

difficulties" for developing countries, which were ill-prepared to counter the effects of an international recession.

Growth in incomes per head in the developing world, he said, would continue to lag behind that in developed market economies, resulting in the further widening of the income gap. For Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, he added, relatively slow growth was expected.

Turning to a report on the world social situation, Ahmed

said, it brought out the painful consequences of severe economic setbacks in many developing countries in recent years. The convening of a special session of the General Assembly next year and the formulation of a new international development strategy for the 1990s would provide the international community with important opportunities to agree upon and implement concerted policies and measures to reverse the negative trends of the 1980s.

### Demand for rare metals likely to surge

## Japan pans for gold by satellite

TOKYO, May 7, (Reuters): The Japanese have struck gold in Indonesia - by sitting in a laboratory in Tokyo studying pictures.

Using advanced satellite technology called remote sensing, a group of Japanese scientist-prospectors recently discovered a major gold deposit on the remote Indonesian island of Lombok, north of Timor.

It was the first publicised case of a mineral deposit being found by satellite alone. It was announced last month that Jakarta would develop the site.

A team led by government researcher Ryoichi Koda found the gold in photographs taken by the American Landsat-6 and France's spot-1 earth-surveying satellites.

"We are sweating in the lab in search of jackpot, just as our predecessors did in jungles or canyons," said Toru Kawakami, a senior geologist at Tokyo's earth Resources Satellite Data Analysis Centre (ERSDAC).

### Funds

Until now information gathered by satellite has been used only to supplement data obtained through proven forms of research, including aerial surveys, trekking on foot to collect samples, and costly drilling.

With its abundant funds and technology, Japan is taking satellite prospecting further.

"This will become the mainstream in resource development projects in the next decade," said Jiro Komai, technical manager of the semi-governmental ERSDAC. "We need this to catch up with expected shortages in various natural resources."

Most of the world's remaining undiscovered deposits of mineral ores, oil and precious metals are believed to be in remote locations where the cost of exploration is often prohibitive, Komai said.

"We only need a few dollars per square metre for remote sensing while drilling a 3,000-metre (10,000-foot) deep oil well requires as much as \$10 million," he said.

The satellites carry a sensor that enhances relative reflections of visible and infrared spectra emitted from the earth's surface. Scientists then can estimate surface conditions through gradations of colours. Each mineral has a different shade of colour.

By February 1992, Japan is planning to send into orbit its own resource exploration satellite, the Earth Resources Satellite (ERS-1).

The ERS-1 will be the first of its kind to be equipped with advanced sensor systems specifically designed to obtain detailed geological data.

"In the 1970s, without satellites, we could only hope for three lucky cases out of a thousand trial explorations," said Kyoichi Koyama, director of the government's metal mining agency.

"But now, with our sophisticated satellites, we can hope for one out of a hundred."

The ERS-1 will be able to take photographs of the earth's surface using a wider range of wavelengths to obtain more detailed geological data than land and other conventional earth-surveying satellites.

High-tech radar aboard the satellite will transmit microwaves that penetrate surface vegetation and sand to detect clues leading to underground deposits. Development of computer software to analyse this information is also under way.

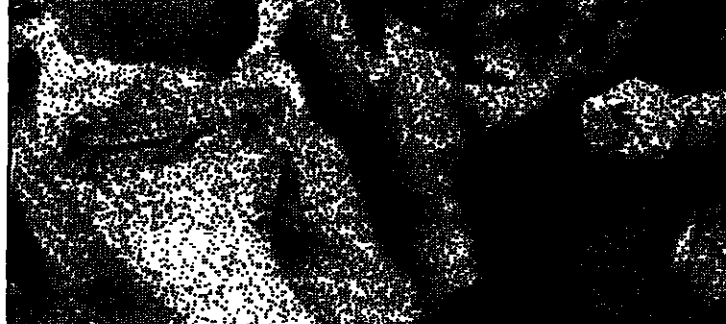
The data will enable researchers to map out traces of ancient volcanoes, subterranean structures, underground streams and magma flows, all of which are valuable clues in the search for copper, gold, zinc, lead and oil.

Industry sources say the next target of remote sensing may be rare metals such as titanium or niobium, mostly in connection with Japan's aid packages for China and Latin American countries.

Demand for rare metals is expected to surge in the next decade because of their use in high-tech industries.

"Sometimes, we get caught up in cash-oriented schemes, with conflicts of interest emerging between mining companies and producing countries," said Komai of ERSDAC.

The search for natural resources is heavily tied in with political issues, and can involve defence problems because of boundary wrangles and other disputes, Komai said.



Striking metalworkers carry a man shot during clashes between policemen and workers in the Sao Paulo suburb of Diadema on Friday. At least three people were shot and 15 policemen injured in the worst violence to occur during the present wave of strikes in Brazil which has disrupted the motor and aircraft industries, banks, telecommunications, schools and other sectors. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Police clash with strikers

### Metalworkers demand pay raises

RIODEJANEIRO, Brazil, May 7, (AP): State police clashed with dozens of striking metalworkers during a rally outside an auto parts plant in the southern city of Sao Paulo on Friday, the country's largest television network reported.

Eight strikers were reported injured, the report said.

State police used tear-gas to break up the rally, called to pressure auto plant workers to honour the strike. The strikers responded by throwing stones at the police and the police opened fire, reported TV Globo, which showed the police shooting at the strikers.

### Suffered

Though eight strikers suffered injuries, three were hurt seriously enough to be hospitalised, the station reported.

About 30,000 Sao Paulo metalworkers have been on strike for 18 days, demanding pay raises.

The government's failure to reduce 1,000-per cent-a-year inflation has led to a wave of strikes in recent weeks that have hit ports, banks, schools, hosp-

itals, and steel and auto industries.

Brazil's cost of living rose 7.31 per cent in April, the highest monthly increase this year, the government said on Friday.

The month's inflation rate was up from March's rate of 6.09 per cent despite a government-imposed freeze on wages and prices announced in January, according to the Geography and Statistics Institute. The government recognises the institute's figures as official.

Inflation for the last 12-month period was 991.53 per cent. The rate since January reached 100.83 per cent, the institute reported.

Clothing expenses pushed up the cost of living more than any other item for the third straight month, jumping 21.41 per cent over the 30-day period. Housewares climbed 13.77 per cent and housing costs went up 9.53 per cent, the institute said.

The April inflation rate came as no surprise to the government, which had predicted a slight monthly cost of living increase after readjusting prices on

several basic goods.

The government's so-called "summer plan," which includes a wage and price freeze on basic commodities and cuts in public spending, is a last-ditch effort to avoid hyperinflation and stimulate growth. In the 1988 calendar year, annual inflation was 933 per cent.

The plan is the fourth set of anti-inflation measures since President Jose Sarney took office in 1985, ending 21 years of military rule.

In a failed anti-inflation programme in 1986-87, the government froze wages and prices. But Brazilians went on a consumer spending spree and goods such as milk and meat disappeared from supermarket shelves, causing long lines, hoarding, black marketing and forcing the government to import food products.

The local news media in recent weeks has reported an increase of hoarding and black market sales of meat, eggs and milk.

Strikes have become more frequent, with workers protesting reduced buying power.



EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

**Kuwait Science Museum**  
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

**Islamic Arts Museum**

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

**Sadu House**

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

MUSIC

**Piano Recital**

MAY 9: Well-known pianist Klaus Zoli will give a recital at the Sheraton Hotel's Riccardo Restaurant at 5 pm, followed by a cocktail reception. For reservations call the hotel, ext. 104/107/109.

**Geet and Gazals**

MAY 19: A musical programme "Bhooley Bisray Geet Gazals" is to take place at Sharq auditorium. They are also on the lookout for singers to participate in this programme. Those interested may contact: Anwar H. Abdullah - 3989111 ext. 6811; 8 am - 3 pm.

SOCIAL

**Annual get-together**

MAY 8: Kuwait chapter of International Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen will hold their annual get-together at SAS Grand Ball Room at 7 p.m. For further details ring: 2425315.

**Remo's Show**

MAY 11: The 'Expatriates Club' will hold a dinner-musical at the SAS Hotel. Remo, India's pop-star will be the star performer and Expatriate Queen will be crowned. City Limits and Perfect Strangers in attendance. For details call Tony 2415439; Wilson - 3918905 (office hours); Val - 5614506 after 2 pm.

India Day

MAY 11-12: Various groups and organisations of Indians living in Kuwait have joined to project cultural evenings and entertainments apart from exhibiting the local materials of the regions and to show live demonstrations like Kolam (Tamil Nadu) and others, at the Bneid Al Gar Sea Club. Foods of special nature of different sectors of India will also be available. For further details contact 5331456, 4898891, 2644863, 3678762 or 4881387.

May Queen

MAY 11: Kuwait Goans will hold a May Queen function at Messilah Beach Hotel with Top Ranks and Next of Kin in attendance. The cream of the evening will be provided by Alexander Rosario, the singing sensation from Goa. For details contact 2413348/4881387.

Danish Coffee Morning

MAY 14: Daniela invites all Danish ladies for coffee morning at the Dana Restaurant, May 14, 9.30 am. For reservations call Ingilde - 3713570; Marianne - 3720182 ext. 29.

Casuals Cricket Club

MAY 18: 8 pm, Messilah Beach Hotel. Annual dinner with special guest speaker Brian Close CBE, former captain of England and Yorkshire. Courtesy of British Airways. Live music. For tickets and information call Simon Clements (5333248) or Val Tudball (5327159).

Konkani drama

MAY 18-19: Indian Arts Circle, Funaites. MAR Productions presents Konkani drama "Noshibacho Diva Paloulo", directed by Prem Kumar. Gate passes available at Raja Stores. Tel. 2412970.

Kuwait Caledonians

MAY 18: Messilah Beach Hotel. The Caledonians will hold a "celebrity" (gathering) with entertainment by John Carmichael and others. Tel: 5335082; 3727690 ext. 253.

Arabian Nights

MAY 19th, 'Arabian Nights' evening at the Jawahara Night-club, Messilah Beach Hotel. Dress: Middle-Eastern of past or present. 20 costume prizes. Tel.: 4847461 - 2418017, 4846843 ext. 4515, or leave message on 2614201.

Get-together

JUNE 16: The Go-Go Club

will be having a get-together at the Ramada Al-Salem Hotel from 11 am onwards with Stepping Stone and Symphony in attendance. For details contact Raju 2412970.

ACT play

MAY 16-18: ACT presents a play by Raymond Briggs, "When the Wind Blows" at the Mousetrap Theatre in Jabriya at 8 pm both days. For reservations call: 5620332, 4-8 pm.

HOTELS

At the Kuwait International A 3-day Eid programme at the Kuwait International Hotel includes:

**GARDENPOOL:** Exotic Mongolian B-B-Q with surprises for the children. Ext. 8137.  
**FAILAKA:** The rooftop restaurant will present an extensive Lebanese mezzeh, Oriental and continental cuisine with live entertainment. Ext. 8012.  
**LA PALMA:** A celebration lunch and dinner menu - promises to be a gourmet's delight. Ext. 8166.  
**LA PATISSERIE:** Exclusive corner for families. Eid takeaway cookies on sale. Ext. 8014.

At the Holiday Inn

**COFFEE SHOP:** Delicious iftar buffet. Babylon and Lobby Cafe: A variety of Arabic sweets and fresh fruits with jellab juice. Trio Dimension providing music up to 1.00 pm.

German Week

MAY 23, Tuesday: Opening reception for anniversary, exhibition and German Week given by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany at 7.00 pm at the Regency Palace hotel ballroom "Sheikha".

MAY 24, Wednesday: German Gala Night with German food buffet, musicians and other entertainments, ballroom "Sheikha" at 8.00 pm. Exhibition hours are from 9.30 am until 1.00 pm and from 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

MAY 26, Friday: International Children's Day from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm in the ballroom "Sheikha" of the Conference Centre Building. Exhibition hours are from 9.30 am to 9.00 pm.

MAY 27, Saturday: Siemens - 30 years in Kuwait. Reception at 7.30 pm in the ballroom "Sheikha" of the Conference Centre Building. Exhibition hours are from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

pm and 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

At the SAS

FOR Eid Al Fitr feast your palate with diverse Italian dishes as well as international and local specialties at the newest Italian restaurant in town... Bistretto at the SAS. Special brunch every Friday and dinner buffet daily.

Celebrate Eid with fine menu of charcoal grills you can find only at Al Boom. Welcome aboard and find out what it is. Experience authentic Oriental foods prepared by Chinese Chef Von Kwee Kiong at the Peacock Room. Open for lunch and dinner daily.

If you are always on the go, SAS Hotel's Clock Drive-in restaurant can serve you with various fast food items along with our very own specialties.

SPORTS

Keep fit classes

MONDAYS (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and mens fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill at the Holiday Inn.

Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo. Saturdays and Tuesdays Yoga (7 to 8 pm)

Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome...

Pls contact the recreation manager tel. No. 4742000 ext. 6788 or 6700.

Swimming Classes

MAY 8-24: Swimming classes, total 8 lessons - every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at the Kuwait International Hotel. Details at ext. 8050. May 9- June 12: Tennis clinic with a choice of 3 different schedules. Details at ext. 8050 with Antony Kingma.

Tennis Cup

MAY 18-15: The first Tennis Nation's Fund Cup will be held on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Federal Republic of Germany. Twenty-four teams are expected to participate in the tournament, due to be held at the Regency Palace Hotel. Each team should consist of three players, including one female, of the same nationality. For registration, teams must submit names and passport copies of team members to be Fitness Centre, Regency Palace Hotel. Fees: KD 18 per team. Public draw on May 16. For queries call the German Week Office: Tel: 5728000 ext. 7204.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran  
9.15 Sherlock Holmes: cartoon serial  
9.45 Varieties  
10.00 Donya Jadidah: Arabic musical programme, starring Safa' Abou Esso'ad  
10.45 Circus  
11.15 Ashra Alla Ashra: Arabic children theatre, starring Huda Sultan, Mohammed Al Zayani and Ja'far Al Haki.

1.00 News Summary  
1.05 The World via Satellite  
1.35 Cartoons  
2.00 Eidkom Mubarak: variety programme presented by Amina Al Sharah and Bassam Al Othman

3.30 Adventure Series  
4.00 Al Jid'an Al Thalatha: Arabic feature film, starring: Samir Ghannim, Mohammed Rida

6.00 Varieties  
7.00 Holy Quran and Science, presented by Ahmad Shawqi  
7.45 Fitna Wa Sa'ad: Al Thalathiya Al Badawiya (last part)

9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 Musical variety  
10.00 Layali Al Hilmiya:

Arabic serial, part one:

starring: Hassan Yusuf, Ahmad Mathar, Safiya Al Omari, Yahya Fakhrani and Dalal Abdulaziz.

12.30 News Summary  
12.35 The World via Satellite  
1.00 Holy Quran and Cutdown

KTV 2

4.00 Opening Announcement and Holy Quran  
4.10 Bionic Six: A cartoon series for children  
4.30 Basketball  
5.00 Prestige: "The Electric Grandmother". A widower hires a robot servant to help in raising his children.

6.30 A Walt Disney Movie "The Love Bug". Unsuccessful car racer defends by chance an old "Volkswagon" which helps him afterwards to win every car race he participates in.

8.00 News in English  
8.30 Paradise: "The News from St. Louis". Plot Eps.

9.30 Variety  
10.30 TV Movie: "Inspector Maigret". Starring: Richard Harris, Patric



A scene from Inspector Maigret on KTV 2 at 10.30 pm today

O'Neal, Victoria Tennant. The shrewd French private investigator Jules Maigret is out to stop the murder of a friend, which leads to a trail of intrigue and multiple murders involving a wealthy industrial family.

12.00 News in Brief  
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

CINEMA

Andalus Iron Angle  
Hamsa Just A Damned Soldier  
Drive-In Arabic film  
Firdous Clerk  
Salmiya (Theatre reserved for some programmes)

Fahsheel Open-air  
Zulm Ko Jala Doonga  
Fahsheel Chase  
Jahra Born Killer  
Granada Space Mutiny  
Salsabikhat Extreme Prejudice  
Jleeb Al Shoyoukh Agoom Pani  
Ahmadi Drive-In Arabic film

Kuwait Salem Pharmacy  
Fahd Al Salem St.  
Bin Rusud Pharmacy  
Al Doaj Souq, Al Kuwait building

Hawalli and Nagra Al Waleed Pharmacy  
Hawalli, Tunis St.

Salmiya and Rasmithiya Qortoba Pharmacy  
Salem Al Mubarak St., Salmiya

Fahsheel and Ahmadi Adel Pharmacy  
Fahsheel, Al Awadhi building, Al Dabous St.

Farwaniya Al Howaila Pharmacy  
Al Mustawaf St.

Jahra Al Nour Pharmacy  
Al Mutafti St.

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.33 am  
Zuhr 11.44  
Asr 3.20 pm  
Maghreb 6.29  
Isha 7.54

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Service

0600 News  
0700 News Summary followed by Opera of the Week  
0800 News  
0900 News  
1000 News  
1100 News  
1200 News  
1300 News  
1400 News  
1500 News  
1600 News  
1700 News  
1800 News  
1900 News  
2000 News  
2100 News  
2200 News  
2300 News  
2400 News

0200 World News

09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary  
30 Waveguide  
40 Words of Faith  
45 Recording of the Week  
0600 News  
0700 News  
0800 News  
0900 News  
1000 News  
1100 News  
1200 News  
1300 News  
1400 News  
1500 News  
1600 News  
1700 News  
1800 News  
1900 News  
2000 News  
2100 News  
2200 News  
2300 News  
2400 News

15 Good Books

30 Financial News (ex 1st and 2nd) followed by Sports Roundup  
45 Andy Kershaw's World of Music  
1000 News Summary followed by Living with Death (ex 1st and 8th Leaders and Leadership)  
15 Tech Talk  
30 The Vintage Chart Show  
1100 World News  
09 News about Britain  
15 Tech Talk  
30 The Ken Bruce Show  
1200 News  
15 Brain of Britain (ex 1st My Music)  
45 Sports Roundup  
1300 World News  
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary  
30 1st Russia - The Drive to Empire 8th and 15th A Celebration of British Food and Farming, 22nd Sincerely Yours, 29th The European Court of Human Rights

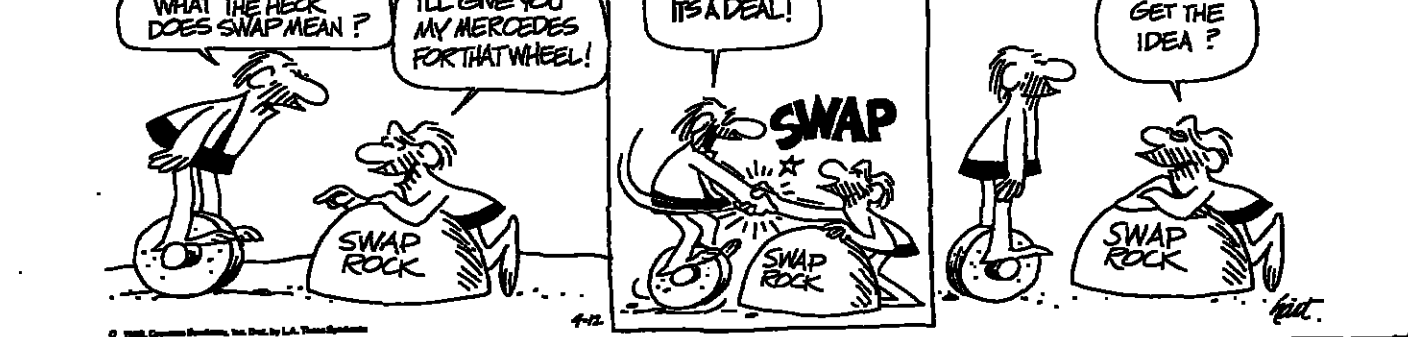
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

**Aries (March 20 - April 18)**  
You will be able to see your way through a complicated situation. You must not allow yourself to be distracted from the major task at hand. A little more commonsense is needed just now. Be moderate.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**  
You will find it easier to keep calm, even when provoked. You will not have time for everything and should concentrate on getting the most essential things done first. Do not say one thing and then do another.

**Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**  
This is going to be a most important day for you. You will be able to do something that interests you but do not ignore what has to be done. Others are liable to take advantage of you, never mind, you will win out in the end. Be tactful.

**Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**  
Make sure you do not do anything that would be bad for your health. Seek to be just a little more patient. You should not try to do more than one thing at a time. Be trustworthy.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
Something you have been meaning to do for ages should be done without further delay. Make sure you get all the rest you need and take a little more exercise. Do not rely so much on others. Be more considerate.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
You will be somewhat disappointed and will not feel as well as of late. Never mind, just do what has to be done and things will soon improve again. Do not allow yourself to be discouraged. Be sensible.

**Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**  
Within a little more patience you will get your way in the end. You will feel more like your old self but must also restrain yourself. You should not get in other people's way or allow them to get into yours. Be cordial.

**Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**  
Nothing will go quite as rapidly as you would wish, but you must not rush things. You should make sure you do not waste time on secondary matters. Try to get things right the first time. Be straightforward.

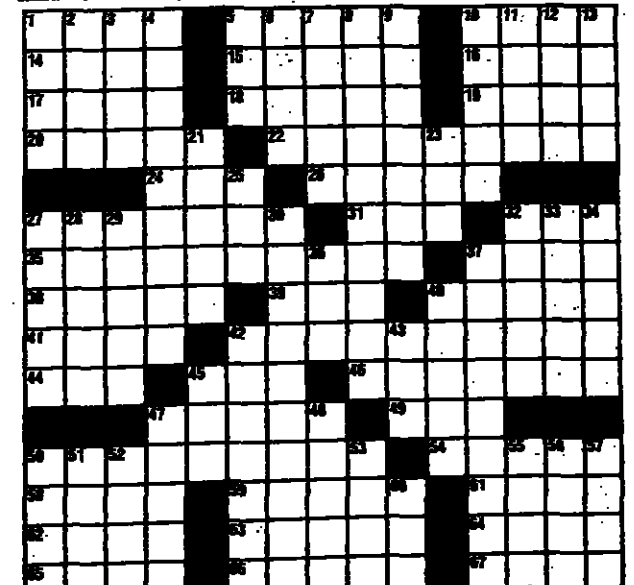
**Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**  
There is every reason for you to hold your head high. Constant practice will help you to do more quickly what you have learnt recently. Something you feared might not happen. Be a little less flamboyant.

**Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
You should not place too much value on what you know should be done right away. Do not take everything quite so literally. Your lucky numbers are 19 and 8. Make sure you do not lose the courage of your convictions. Be loyal.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)**  
You will find lots of doors open to you, but you should not try to rush any of them. And do not expect others always to do exactly what you would like them to do. Do not take too much for granted. Be tactful.

**Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**  
You should not place too much reliance on your intuitions, instead use more commonsense. Try not to get into an argument about a controversial subject. Avoid exceeding any limits, speed or otherwise. Be respectful.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**  
1 Salad bar item  
5 Alleviates  
10 One of the Raindeer people  
14 Gloomy  
15 Fissile rock  
16 The low-fat spread  
17 Opposed  
18 Lustrous fabric  
19 Weight allowance  
20 Newsstand  
22 Ancient Istanbul  
24 Pedro's uncle  
26 Proportion  
27 Bivalve mollusk  
31 Kind of jazz  
32 Recipe amt.  
35 General who became president  
37 Brood  
38 Mine entrances  
39 See 45 Across  
40 Home run champion  
41 Danson and Koppel  
42 See 35 Across  
44 Copenhagen coin  
45 Moneybags, with 39 Across  
46 Stage setting  
47 Passover feast  
48 Command for 35 Across  
50 Out of sight  
54 List of candidates  
58 Bacchanalian cry  
59 Trumpet sound  
61 Bavarian river  
62 Shore bird  
63 Shoe salesman, at times  
64 King of the Huns

**DOWN**  
1 Mt. Rushmore's state  
2 TV actress  
3 Animal trail  
4 Tennis players' accessories  
5 Double road curve  
6 Fictional whaler  
7 Sylvan deity  
8 Two English monarchs  
9 Nun, for one  
10 Game of chance  
11 Jai -  
12 Home of the Incas  
13 Composition in verse  
21 Drying chambers  
23 Bite  
25 Surprised sound  
27 Former Asian treaty org.  
28 Autumn beverage  
29 Out of the way  
30 Native of a SE Idaho city  
32 Rich cake  
33 Animal trail  
34 Piggy bank coin  
36 Existed  
37 Louisiana state accessories  
40 Biblical herbs  
42 Fordable  
43 Diamonds to a yegg  
45 Professional charge  
47 Odor  
48 Respond  
50 Employment training act, abbr.  
51 Completed  
52 Writer Ephron  
53 Dread, in Glasgow  
55 Travel agents' org.  
56 Like some stories  
57 Silkworm  
60 Stray

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**  
HAIR ATILITY MAIG  
ASHER SONIA ACE  
HIGHEST MARK SRS  
SPOILER TRESSSES  
RENUIS RONDO  
TOKEN DEB SOU  
HOISTS NAM TMAN  
ANN SIESTAS BRO  
YADS SRO BERTS  
OUT ARM TERSE  
REFER SENTA  
ATTRITE TILLAGE  
DUE FIRSTLETTER  
ADA LEGAL ROTOR  
REM ERIDE RAMS

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TAKE THE ONLY CHANCE

Both vulnerable. South deals.  
**NORTH**  
♠ Q J 4  
♥ Q 7 6  
♦ 8 4 2  
♣ 8 6 5 2  
**EAST**  
♠ 10 9 8 5 2  
♥ 8 5 3  
♦ 9 7  
♣ A 7 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K  
♥ A K  
♦ A K Q J  
♣ K J 10 9 4

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 ♦ Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
6 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠  
There are those who claim it is better to be born lucky than rich. We're not convinced—money can provide considerable balm for an awful lot of bad breaks in life. We are not sure of South's financial standing, but from this hand, we do know that he is blessed with good fortune.

After North took a club preference, South elected to gamble on a

small slam. After all, he needed no more than the queen of clubs in partner's hand to be a lock for 12 tricks.

West led the top of his heart sequence, and the hand was over at trick two. Declarer won and, with no entry to dummy to take the trump finesse, banged down the king of clubs. When that fetched the queen, declarer claimed all the tricks except for the ace of clubs.

Now no one can quibble about the fact that declarer was lucky to find a singleton queen of clubs. However, we should give him credit for realizing that that was the only chance he had for his contract.

If the trumps were 2-2, there was no way declarer could have avoided losing two trump tricks, so he had to hope for a 3-1 split. And a singleton ace would not have helped him. That would mean that one of the defenders held the queen guarded twice. A low trump from declarer would bring down the ace, but the queen would still be guarded and would not drop under the king.

Perhaps we should reconsider. There is something to be said for "buona fortuna" at the bridge table.



"She wants to know what the pot roast was like."



## Filipino gets top UNICEF post

ANTONIO A. Hidalgo, 46, has just been named Chief of the Asia Section in the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) headquarters, New York.

Hidalgo, who did his B.S. in Economics at the University of the Philippines, and his M.A. in Political Science at the Ateneo University, is the highest-ranking Filipino in UNICEF.

Prior to this assignment, Hidalgo was UNICEF representative in Burma, and co-ordinated the international emergency effort in the country during the recent political crisis. This involved the airlifting and distribution of more than a hundred metric tons of emergency medical supplies to hospitals and clinics all over the country, and the distribution of food rations to over a half a million people in the poorest areas.

Hidalgo who has been with UNICEF since 1975, was also UNICEF representative in Korea, where he was awarded a presidential medal by the Korean government. He also served as chief of the Programme Area Office in Beirut, covering Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, and Regional Planning Adviser in seven countries covered by UNICEF Regional Office in Bangkok.

Before joining the UN organisation, Hidalgo was a Fellow of the Development Academy of the Philippines. He also taught Economics and Political Science at the University of the Philippines, and was a staff writer for the Graphic magazine.

## Plan to protect earnings of overseas workers

Attempt to cut out the middleman

By Nathan Castro

A FORMULA has finally been conceived to provide maximum protection to overseas workers in relation to their income amounting to billions of dollars which has attracted all kinds of criminal elements victimising the unwary and often trusting workers.

Filipino overseas workers, according to statistics from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), earn more than \$2.5 billion annually, out of which only about \$800 million are remitted to the Philippines.

The proposal to protect the earnings of these workers is embodied in a bill filed by Sen. Alberto Romulo (Senate Bill No. 1003) establishing the Overseas Workers National Development Fund from the earnings of the country's more than one million overseas workers.

The measure is expected to maximise the

benefits these workers would get from their earnings as well as provide them a safer, more secure and faster means of remitting their earnings to their families.

In addition to these benefits for the workers, the proposed fund would help boost the country's gross international reserves and the funds could be used to retire the country's foreign debt.

Under the Romulo bill, workers will deposit their dollar earnings with the OWF which shall be established in all overseas branches of the Philippine National Bank which will, in turn, issue to the depositing workers Participation Certificates in denominations of \$500, \$1,000, and \$2,000.

These certificates may be sent to the families of the workers in the Philippines who may redeem them in pesos with any authorised bank at double their value. Thus, a worker's certificate of \$300 will be

redeemed at P42,000 and a \$2,000 certificate at P84,000.

Senator Romulo explained that the OWF will be used exclusively to retire Philippine debt papers in the international secondary markets at discounts of not less than 50 per cent of their face value. It provides further that should a surplus be realised from the operation of the OWF, such surplus will be used to provide assistance to the families of the overseas workers.

Among the other benefits cited by Romulo were:

1. Give maximum returns to the honest labour of overseas workers.
2. Provide necessary funds and credits for the Countryside Business Enterprises otherwise known as "Kalkalan ng 20."
3. Provide overseas workers a safe and convenient remittance system and encourage them to remit more if not all of

their dollar earnings.

4. Strengthen the country's foreign exchange position.

The Romulo bill was hammered out with the assistance of a panel of experts from the Asian Institute of Management under Professor Victor Limlingan.

Limlingan had stressed the importance of stipulating that the Central Bank may redeem Philippine debt only for the OWF, for the Philippine government or for non-profit organisations. Thus foreign investors will no longer be eligible for debt-equity swap. Otherwise, in the absence of such a stipulation, the OWF will have a lower priority than the foreign investors.

Limlingan said he believed the money would be used for capital investments for the "Kalkalan 20" and that the plan would be the seed money for the most promising of source of entrepreneurs who are the returning workers. (Asian News & Features).



## P500 bill not legal tender in Olongapo

OLONGAPO CITY: It may be the peso bill with the largest value but several business establishments here now refuse to accept it as a legal tender.

A check by the Inquirer showed that establishments, mostly Chinese-owned, refuse to take P500 bills from customers for fear they are fake.

According to cashiers and waitresses, their managers have instructed them not to accept the P500 bills with serial numbers starting with letter H.

When asked if their managers have received a circular or memorandum from the Central Bank regarding the bills, they said they have not.

City Councilor Primo Galvez, one of those who P500 bill was not accepted, yesterday

threatened to sue the owners of a first-class dining place here who refused to accept the bill as payment for food and drinks he ordered.

"To a certain degree, this is a clear case of economic sabotage. Because if you demonetize money, it will cause great trouble," Galvez said.

Even at the Olongapo public market, vendors refuse to accept the bills because of the proliferation of bogus P500 bills.

However, Olongapo Metro-district chief Lt. Col. McArthur Torres said they have not yet received any complaint on the existence of fake P500 bills.

It was also learned that P500 bills are not the only legal tender being snubbed by Olongapo residents.

By Martin Abbugao

MANILA, Philippines, (UPI): In a cozy corner of Manila's sprawling seaside Rizal Park, visitors can cool off at an open-air coffee shop where the loudest sound is the ticking of the cash register.

"I like this place. It's so quiet and peaceful," said Frenchman Henry Laborde, sipping his morning coffee. "The waiters are deaf and mute but they're nice," said the 75-year-old retiree from Paris.

The canteen was established in 1969 by the privately run Philip-

pine Association of the Deaf (PAD). Association officials said they believed it was the only coffee shop in the world run solely by deaf-mutes.

Simply named the PAD coffee shop, it has 50 employees — a manager, cooks, waiters, waitresses and janitors, all of whom communicate through the quick hand gestures of sign language.

Only Rodolfo Soriano, PAD director for food services, and a security guard are not handicapped.

Surrounded by acacia trees in the expensive park on the edge of

sparkling Manila Bay, the 250-seat open-air coffee shop is a favourite of foreigners and Filipinos who yearn for silence in crowded Manila.

Soriano said deaf-mutes from other countries also love to visit the place, which is open 24 hours a day, because "they know that the sign language is universal and they can communicate with each other."

Covered with galvanized iron roofing, the coffee shop has no walls and breezes from the bay keep it free of pollution from smoke-belching buses plying the crowded tourist district and from

smog from a nearby oil-fired power plant.

Small gardens surrounding the restaurant filter noise from the traffic and from a nearby business district. Steel chairs and tables are neatly lined in rows on the concrete pavement.

Within full view is the park's huge fountain in front of the restaurant and the elegant Manila Hotel across the grassy expanse.

As the client finds a table, he signals the waiter to come over. Sometimes the waiter is engrossed in exchanging jokes or gossip with his friends so the patron has to wave to catch his attention.

The waiter hands a menu card on which the customer is advised in bold letters: "You are being served by the deaf." Along with the menu is a ballpoint pen and a blank receipt where the customer jots down his order.

Soriano said the waiters know how to read and count. Most of them have completed elementary and high school at an institution also run by the association and partially funded by the coffee shop. Employees also have been given professional training.

"They are very industrious," Soriano said in an interview.

A unique restaurant run by deaf mutes

## Oasis of quiet in noisy Manila

There's money in garbage

## Business as usual on Manila's Smoky Mountain



Scavengers at 'Smoky Mountain,' Manila's biggest dumpsite collect cartons, paper, cans, bottles, and other re-usable materials to sell for recycling. Some 20,000 people in the Philippines capital live at the site.

MANILA: Imelda Marcos tried to move the people of Smoky Mountain. Corason Aquino plans to move the mountain.

Those are two different solutions to the most odious (and odorous) symbol of poverty in the Philippines.

Smoky Mountain is a smoldering mass of garbage near the heart of Manila. Rising like a volcano, 80 feet high, covering 40 acres, it serves as both a shantytown and job lot for 20,000 men, women, and children.

As dark puffs of methane smoke rise up from the spontaneous combustion of garbage under the hot tropical sun, these scavengers pick through the ooze of trash to find objects to sell. The stench stops the breath and lingers on clothes for days.

The irony: The scavengers earn an above-average income by recycling Coca-Cola bottles, plastic bags, animal bones, and tin cans. One or two have found diamonds in the stinking rough.

This unusual slum has existed for decades but hit the international spotlight only in the past few years. Foreign photographers and television reporters, who flocked to Manila to cover Mrs. Aquino's rise to power, found an easy image in the squalid, Dickensian dump to show the human degradation caused by Ferdinand Marcos's ruined economy.

"The misery of Smoky Mountain is a dramatic contrast for visitors after they see the 3,000 pairs of shoes once owned by Imelda Marcos," says the Rev. Benigno Beltran, a Roman Catholic priest who works with the dump's residents.

"From the point of view of the Aquino government, the mountain is just a symbol of national disgrace," Fr. Beltran says.

For well-off Filipinos, sensitive to foreign opinion and hoping to emphasize a modern

Philippines, the symbol of disgrace has been too much. In an Asian nation in which public honour is fundamental, the symbol had to go.

Since January, the government has made plans to close all seven open public dump sites in

metropolitan Manila, the worst being Smoky Mountain.

Already, dump trucks no longer come to the top of old Smoky. Instead, the dozens of trucks that collect the garbage of Manila's 2 million residents now bring their fresh shipments to the moun-

tain's edge.

As each truck unloads, a whistle blows and a dozen scavengers pounce on the falling trash. They use metal rods to locate potentially valuable items, tossing these over their shoulders into large baskets hanging on their backs. Within minutes, the pile is picked over, and another truck pulls up.

Mario Ngo, who has worked the mountain for 16 years, and has seven children, says he earns at least \$1.50 a day. That is more than he would earn if he lived in the rural provinces. And life in Manila, he says, is very entertaining.

In March, the Japanese government donated 116 covered garbage trucks to the Metro Manila Authority, which comprises four cities and 13 towns. Before the new trucks went into operation, they were sprinkled with holy water in a blessing by a Catholic priest. And an asphalt road was laid down in March to the top of the mountain, where Manila Mayor Gemilano (Mel) Lopez Jr. has built a chapel, a 60-foot metal cross, and a centre to retrain scavengers for new jobs.

In recent weeks, Metro Manila Gov. Efrén Cruz has begun an appeal for \$120 million from foreign donors to plan two new landfills well outside the city. The landfills would receive Manila's 3,400 tons of daily garbage. The plan includes relocating and retaining all the Smoky Mountain scavengers, as well as recycling the garbage into energy and fertilizer, by 1992.

The Aquino administration's appeal to raise foreign money includes a slide presentation that makes a big promise to make Metro Manila "clean, sanitary, and scavenger-free."

Mr. Cruz, who as Metro Manila governor holds the position once held by Imelda Marcos, says the real problem is not the mountain itself, but how to get

rid of a large colony of well-paid garbage pickers. Several times, Mrs. Marcos ordered forcible removal of the residents to sites outside the city. But they all came back. Aquino has promised to no forced relocation.

Leveling the mountain and finding a new dump site is easy, says Cruz. The bigger problem is finding alternative work for the people.

"The people tell me, 'OK, we are scavengers and everyone looks down on us. But we are earning a livelihood,'" says Cruz.

Eliminate Smoky Mountain, Cruz says, "and we are going to have 20,000 social problems spread all over Manila."

The fact is that recycling is so lucrative that many scavengers scour the streets for garbage — even before the trucks do. Smoky Mountain is as much a recycling centre and a community as it is a dump site. Residents have even issued their own identification cards and established a pecking order for garbage picking.

If the city levels the mountain and dumps garbage elsewhere, warns Beltran, the number of scavengers' pushcarts will increase and they will penetrate farther into Manila's suburbs.

Beltran says the mountain is best left alone. "Smoky Mountain will always exist. That is what I told government officials. We can find funding for the livelihood projects and housing," he says.

Meanwhile, as the machinery of government grinds slowly on, "there's money in garbage." So says Smoky Mountain residents. Honrado Reyes, who recycles about 500 tin cans a day for 1 cent apiece. "If the city of Manila were to sell all these salable materials, the garbage collection would be a self-liquidating project."

1989, The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Keep original documents

## Warning for US-bound nurses

A PROMINENT manpower executive has strongly warned Filipino nurses against surrendering their original documents to any recruiters either for promise of a job or a free CGFNS review.

Frony C. Fortich, president and general manager of Gulf Pacific Services and trading Corp., issued the strong warning even as he pointed out that nurses have complained to his office regarding their difficulty in getting back their original documents from US or local based recruiters.

Fortich said that nurses should not surrender their original documents and no recruiter who has all the good intentions should get those papers unless they intend to force these nurses to accept

placements even if later on the RNs will change their minds.

He emphasised that nurses should only submit zeroxed or authenticated documents to the nurse recruiters or review centres so that they will still have the freedom to choose placements in case they pass the CGFNS tests.

Fortich welcomed the holding of free CGFNS review classes by recruiters. This is something good for our nurses, however, the free offer becomes bad, if the sponsors confiscate the original documents in return for the so-called free CGFNS review classes.

"Passing the CGFNS is not entirely dependent on attending a review class although it helps and, especially for academically gifted, because oftentimes it gives a false sense of hope, that by atten-

ding a review, it is a sure way to pass the test."

Gulf Pacific was elevated last December 1988 to the "Hall of Fame Award" by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration for its outstanding contributions in the overseas employment programme. A feat shared only by six other private recruitment agencies.

Fortich emphasised that with the worsening of the shortage in the United States for registered nurses, our local RNs have now a wide choice where to go, and certainly we will continue to uphold the right of the nurses.

He also warned nurses to study closely all job offers made to them so they could analyse carefully where such package is really beneficial to them.

PBA basketball.

## Shell boots out Hotdogs

CALVIN TUADLES showed that he broke into the PBA on his own merits last week when he played a key role in Formula Shell's 119-112 victory over Purefoods in the Open Conference semifinal round at the ULTRA.

Raring to get out of the shadow of his more illustrious older brother, Arnie, the 6-foot-1 Calvin fired nine of his 12 points in the fourth quarter as the Zoom Masters completed an agonizing climb from two 18-point deficits in the first half.

The scintillating triumph raised Shell's record to 9-6 and boosted its bid for the second finals slot.

Purefoods, on the other hand, fell to 5-10 and bowed out of the race for the right to face early finalist San Miguel Beer in the best-of-seven series.

Purefoods was still ahead, 97-90, early in the fourth quarter but Benjie Paras came up with back-to-back steals that ignited a 12-point fusillade and pushed Shell on top.

The Hotdogs battled back to forge the final deadlock at 106-all before Tuadles conspired with Bobby Parks and Paras in a 10-2 salvo that sealed the outcome, 117-108, 53 ticks left.

Paras barely missed his second 20-20 performance, making 24 points and grabbing 19 rebounds.

Parks tallied 56 and hauled down 14 rebounds.

Yyes Dignadice buried an eight-foot corner jumper with six seconds left to power San Miguel Beer past Presto, 101-99, in the second game. The Beer-men improved to 13-2.

The Flavor Specialists, who dropped to 8-7, missed an opportunity to turn the game around when Walker Russell muffed a hurried three-point attempt in the next play.

Meanwhile, Arnie Tuadles was fined P2,000 for a hard foul he committed on Purefoods import Perry Moss last Sunday.

FIRST GAME

Shell 119 — Pure 112. Parks 24, C. Tuadles 12, Coloso 9, A. Tuadles 8, Ruiz 4, Ramirez 4, Magaño 2, Manassa 0, Hualde 0, Dela Rosa 0.

Purefoods 112. — Moss 35, Codrines 19, Patrimonio 17, Dela Cruz 12, Lestina 10, Acyones 6, Soles 5, Jarencio 4, Pansaren 2, Valenciano 2, Calate 0, Capacio 0.

Quarters: 23-37; 56-62; 87-93; 119-112.

SECOND GAME

SM 101-Presto 98. Jose 16, Dignadice 16, Fernandez 8, Agustin 5, Teng 4, Calma 2, Cai 2, Yano 2, Lim 0, Graves 0.

PRESTO 99 — Russell 41, Victorino 15, King 13, Caldic 11, Marquez 11, Cristobal 4, Realubit 2, Marquez 11, Cristobal 4, Realubit 2, Israel 2, Sison 0, Domingo 0.

Quarters: 24-28; 55-58; 77-72; 101-99.

Alliance with NPA, charges magazine

## Communist clergy?

SOME 1,200 Catholic nuns and priests have formed an "open alliance" with the New People's Army by providing the guerrillas with food, shelter, transportation and financial support.

These radical clergymen, who advocate the "Liberation Theology," are members of the outlawed Christians for National Liberation (CNL), according to the US-based Family Protection Scoreboard, a magazine published by the California-based National Citizens Action Network.

A top official of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines confirmed the magazine report, saying that "about 1,000 nuns, priests and pastors from the Catholic and Protestant Churches" have joined the communist movement.

The military said at least 10 priests had been reported to have led communist guerrillas in ambushes, raids and gunbattles against military troops in Mindanao, Negros and Samar islands.

Father Frank Navarro of Surigao is believed to be the chairman of the Mindanao commission and a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines' Central Committee, while Father Frank Fernandez heads the rebels in Negros Occidental.

Last Tuesday, Father Ben Al Forque, chairman of the Justice and Peace Committee of the Association of Major Religious Superiors, was arrested by policemen on suspicion of maintaining links with the killers of US Col James Rowe, who was killed last Friday in Quezon City. The NPA has claimed responsibility for Rowe's killing.

Alforque denied the charges, and he was released after being interrogated by the police for about two hours.

The Scoreboard article, "Liberation Theology Growing in the Asian Pacific Basin," was written by Matthew J. Cunningham, a freelance writer on religious and political affairs. Cunningham has a degree in International Affairs from the George Washington University.

## Tough times for Filipino Sesame Street

By Martin Abbugao

MANILA, Philippines, (UPI): Pong Pagong and Kiko Matsing, stars of Batibot, the popular Philippine version of Sesame Street, are fast becoming an endangered species.

A shoestring budget and lack of government support are threatening to take off the air what amounts to the only preschool education available for millions of impoverished Filipino youngsters.

Children and adults alike are banding together to keep Batibot, which is in its sixth season, on the air.

Mark Anthony De Guia, 8, wrote to a Manila newspaper: "Please help save Batibot. I and my sister, Ana Marie, have learned many things from this programme."

Batibot features Pong Pagong, a turtle, and Kiko Matsing, a monkey. Pagong is the Filipino word for turtle and Matsing is monkey in the Tagalog dialect, which the government is promoting as a national language.

Pong and Kiko play essentially the same roles as Kermit the frog and Big Bird on Sesame Street.

Batibot, which means "small but vigorous" in Tagalog, is an adaptation of the much-loved American show. In fact, it was called Sesame Street at the outset and was co-produced with children's television workshop with the backing of former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos.

Government support for Batibot ended in 1984 after the economy collapsed following the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

The co-production arrangement was cancelled and the Philippine Children's Television Foundation has been forced to shoulder production costs of about \$5,000 per month.

Lydia Brown, Batibot's executive producer, said the government has no pre-school education programme and only the children of affluent families can afford to attend exclusive kindergartens.

Batibot is the kindergarten of

the poor and many children pick the homes of lucky television owners in remote barrios to watch Pong and Kiko.

"Our primary mission is to use television in a responsible way in order to produce programmes for the benefit of Filipino children," said Brown, who is also head of the independent Philippine Children's Television Foundation.

Names The names of the two key characters of Batibot are a clue to the philosophy behind the programme: to develop a sense of national identity among children and to use the Tagalog dialect to further instruction in the former American colony where English is the official language.

The one-hour programme is shown every weekday on two television channels. Its skits are replete with Philippine scenes and symbols, local fables, folktales and legends that Philippine toddlers can easily identify with.

Television ratings surveys show Batibot now is more popular than Sesame Street,

which has been shown in Manila since 1970.

Brown said while Sesame Street concentrates on cognitive skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic, Batibot tackled other aspects of the child, especially being Filipino.

For example, it teaches children to prefer local fruits over imported chocolates and ice cream.

Except for the colourful costumes of Pong and Kiko, which were made in New York, the other Batibot puppets are locally crafted and lack the sophistication of Kermit, Big Bird, Oscar the Grouch and other Sesame Street characters.

Even the costumes of Pong and Kiko are worn out, but Brown said repairs to the stars' wardrobes would cost a prohibitive \$20,000.

Negotiations also are under way for a co-production with Indonesia, she said, and Japan recently donated \$300,000 worth of equipment for the programme. Canada and Australia have donated books.

## Canadian woes

VANCOUVER: The problems of Filipino domestic workers in Canada deal mostly with abuses (including discrimination, assault, and harassment) against them by their employers.

This was the consensus of Cenon M. Bagon, Marilen de la Cruz, Imelda S. Nacion, and Cristy Bosing, Filipino community leaders who represented the Canadian province of British Columbia in the recent three-day conference on the plight of Filipino domestic workers. Sponsored by the United Council of Filipino Associations in Canada, the conference was held in Toronto, Ontario.

Domestic workers in Vancouver and other parts of British Columbia (BC) belong to two groups: Filipinas and the West Coast Domestic Workers' Association (WCDWA). Supporting the cause of these workers is the BC Filipino Women Study Group.

At the suggestion of Christina Davidson, WCDWA adviser, a coalition will be formed among

Canadian-Filipino and other sympathetic organizations in British Columbia with the goal of solving or at least minimizing the domestic workers' problems.

Davidson cited the publicized case of Luisa Gatudan, a 33-year-old Filipino domestic worker in Vancouver, who was deported to Manila after it was found out that she had falsely declared herself to be single.

Gatudan's actual marital status was unearthed, followed her attempt last year to sponsor Marconi Nimer to come to Canada as her alleged fiancé. An investigation showed that Gatudan and Nimer had been married since March 1982.

Branding the Gatudan case as one of discrimination based on marital status, Davidson suggested appealing the matter to Canadian Immigration Minister Barbara McDougall.

In a similar case early this year which involved a Filipino seamstress in Winnipeg, McDougall allowed the woman to remain in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.











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**Miscellaneous**  
3 BEDROOM apartment, facing the sea front, like new furniture, bedroom set, sitting room, dining set for 6, full kitchen, TV, stereo, video, KD1,300. Rent KD350. Sail board, Ponto windsurf with fanatic 6.5m sail and boom, KD120. Tel. 2418864 (9 am - 2 pm), 2405474, after 3 pm. (AT6-47178-4)

**WINDSURFER**, Bahia windglider 5m sail, harness, all accessories, wet suit, roof rack, KD140. Complete. Tel. 4845171 am, 5754745, pm. (AT6-47169-2)

**DECCA** colour TV, Muntarbo guitar, amp-speaker, Peavey speakers, Casio CT500 split keyboard, Yamaha mixer, power amp etc. Tel. 3720479. (AT1-47185-3)

**IKEA** sofa 2 seater, IKEA armchairs 2 pieces, Yamaha amplifiers 300 watts, Technics compact disc, carpets and curtains. Tel. Mimi Thomas 5632862. (AT1-47192-3)

**Cars**  
SUZUKI Swift, 1989, red, 4 month old, 6000 kms, lady driven. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tel. 5333056, 10 am-12 noon; 5622686, 6-10 pm. (ATS-47150-3)

**IMPALA**, 1983 model, AC, automatic gear, blue, hard top, in very good condition. KD1,200 cash. Tel. 4897147 after 5 pm. (ATS-47127-3)

**BENIED** Al Qar, Hala House street, independent, newly carpeted room neatly maintained in a flat for a couple (non-smoking) Tel. 2541093 before 12 noon any day. (ATS-47169-3)

**FOR SALE**  
**Miscellaneous**  
3 BEDROOM apartment, facing the sea front, like new furniture, bedroom set, sitting room, dining set for 6, full kitchen, TV, stereo, video, KD1,300. Rent KD350. Sail board, Ponto windsurf with fanatic 6.5m sail and boom, KD120. Tel. 2418864 (9 am - 2 pm), 2405474, after 3 pm. (AT6-47178-4)

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**IMPALA**, 1983 model, AC, automatic gear, blue, hard top, in very good condition. KD1,200 cash. Tel. 4897147 after 5 pm. (ATS-47127-3)

**TOYOTA** Corolla 1984 model, manual, white, in very good condition. Reasonable price. Tel. 2450005 ext. 2093, 7 am - 2 pm, 2443245, after 4 pm. (ATS-47157-2)

**MAZDA** 626, 1986 model, manual, AC, 34,000 kms, in perfect condition. KD1,550 ono, cash. Tel. Mr. Tommy 5339137 (answermachine). (ATS-47160-3)

**CITROEN** BX16 1985, 68,000 kms, automatic with AC and stereo, in excellent condition. Price KD1,500. Tel. Mr. Osama 2453830/1/2/9 am - 2 pm. (AT1-47168-3)

**CHRYSLER** Imperial, 1982 model, 2 door, automatic, black with sun roof, in perfect condition. Tel. 3920784. (ATS-47161-3)

**VOLKSWAGEN** Parati, 1985, with AC, stereo, radio. Insured upto October 1989. KD550. Tel. 4675590, Res. (AT6-47158-2)

**FIAT** (racing) 1979 model with other specifications and sunroof, in good condition. Tel. 2619641, 4843903 upto 2 pm. (ATS-47156-3)

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MAID required for a family with one child, to live-in. Tel. 2401083. (AT6-47184-2)

MAID required, Filipino/Sri Lankan, for a small family, to live-in. Must speak English and have a transferable residence permit. Tel. 2415415. (AT6-47182-3)

**Wanted**  
MAID, Sri Lankan, 5 years working experience with British families, with transferable visa, seeks immediate employment. Tel. Abu Talal, 2443571, 2427805, 8 am - 12 noon. (AT6-47175-3)

LADY housekeeper, Filipino, with 2-1/2 years experience in Kuwait, seeking full time job. Those who can provide visa Tel. Rebecca, 5652969, anytime. (AT6-47170-3)

**INDIAN** commerce graduate with 14 years experience in accounts, seeks suitable position in a reputed organisation. Tel. 4313068. (AT6-47136-3)

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**Transport**  
REQUIRED from Kuwait City to Sabhan. Tel. 4742287, 4742288. (AT6-DR-TM-3)

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CAT, male, very cute, 8 months old. Free to good home. Tel. 5818449, after 3 pm. (AT6-47176-3)

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RIGHTHAND drive car of any make or model. Tel. Sarwar, 5751737. (ATS-MUS-TM-3)

TOYOTA Corolla DX, manual gear, model 83, 84, 85, 86, in very good condition. Tel. Maria Soutros, 5642006, 5-8.30 pm. (AT6-47181-3)

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## Liverpool outplay Forest for FA Cup final

LONDON, May 7. (Reuters): Liverpool overwhelmed Nottingham Forest 3-1 today to reach the English FA Cup final for the third time in four years.

They now meet city rivals Everton in the Wembley showpiece on May 20 — a repeat of 1986 when Liverpool won 3-1.

Inevitably, the semifinal with Forest was played in the shadow of the Hillsborough disaster when 96 people died at Sheffield Wednesday's ground and the match was abandoned after six minutes.

The start of today's restaged tie at Old Trafford, home of Manchester United, was delayed for 15 minutes to allow supporters extra time to get into the ground. Hundreds of fans from both clubs were

still streaming towards the entrances as the announcement was made a quarter of an hour before the scheduled kickoff.

The message said it was to allow fans still arriving "to enter the ground comfortably."

More than 10,000 tickets were reported to have remained unsold.

Police and club officials believe many fans may have been unable to face the trauma of watching the two teams meet again so soon.

John Aldridge gave Liverpool a fine start, scoring after three minutes. John Barnes took advantage of a defensive mix-up and goalkeeper Steve Sutton could only palm out a fierce left foot volley. Aldridge, following up, looped a header out of Sut-

ton's reach.

Neil Webb equalised after 33 minutes with a 20-metre left foot drive which went in off the post.

Two minutes later Aldridge headed against the crossbar after a dangerous cross by Barnes.

But Liverpool were not to be denied. Barnes helped set up the second in the 57th minute. Aldridge heading his second from five metres. It was a repeat of last year's semifinal clash between the two clubs when Aldridge also scored twice.

Forest's misery was completed 19 minutes from time when defender Brian Laws turned a difficult cross from Peter Beardsley on the right into his own net.



European Powerlifting Championships

Tony Stevens of Great Britain strains during action at the European Powerlifting Championships in Lahti, Finland, on Saturday. Stevens took the gold medal in the 100 kg weight class. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Ballesteros lifts European matchplay title

CHEPSTOW, Wales, May 7. (Reuters): Seve Ballesteros of Spain won the first four holes and faltered only briefly to beat Britons Denis Durnan four and three for the European matchplay golf title today.

The world number one, in imperious form here for the last three days, completed one of his most confident victories and leaped to the top of the European money list with his £50,000 (\$85,000) winner's prize.

"I made a fine start and that was important against Denis. He came back strongly for seven or eight holes but it wasn't his day. It was my day," Ballesteros said.

"I'm very pleased. I enjoyed the way I played all week very much, making just two bogeys," he added.

Earlier in the day Ballesteros reached the final with a convincing six and five triumph over Australian Mike Harwood.

Durnan ousted sixth-seeded Irishman Des Smyth four and three in his semifinal. Smyth later beat Harwood by one hole for third place.

Despite his defeat, Durnan impressed Ballesteros and his runner-up money of £32,000 (\$53,720) virtually guaranteed him a place in the European Ryder Cup team to meet the United States in September.

Ballesteros said: "I told Denis 'keep playing like this and you will win soon. And because you will be in the Ryder Cup, I will be on your side next time'."

Durnan, a 38-year-old Englishman coming into his best years after working as a club professional for seven seasons, described Ballesteros as "awesome."

"He's been driving the ball so long. He is without doubt the best player in the world. It was an incredible display," he said.

Durnan had every right to stand back in admiration on the 576-yard par five opening hole where Ballesteros pierced the centre of the fairway with his drive and then lashed a three-wood second shot 275 yards to a point six inches short of the hole.

As Durnan walked on to the green and saw where Ballesteros' ball was, he joined in the applause for the shot.

Ballesteros drove behind a small tree at the second and could only play three feet sideways, from where he put his approach to within seven feet and made the putt.

Durnan overclubbed to the back fringe and after chipping seven feet past, he missed.

## Chuckers upset H2O

THE final week of the K.B.R.C. Wednesday Darts League still failed to produce a 1989 championship result. Leaders H2O, under strength due to the departure of several players, were swept away 5-1, 2-0 by Chuckers, and they must now win their postponed game with Entente Geordiale to clinch top spot.

The Geordie team will be looking to upset another apple cart though, having this week ended Has Beans 13 game undefeated run. The 4-2, 2-0 result featured a titanic battle between Nobby Burton and Nick Harvey, it in the deciding leg.

Bulls Hitters maintained their recent sequence of narrow 4-2 wins, the latest victims being Middle Eastenders, and have now edged one point ahead of Has Beans for 5 high scores, but to no avail. Hitters must now be favourites to claim the third place trophy in their outstanding fixture with Rondels.

Most relieved team of the day award goes to B.H. ladies, who after 4 defeats in a row have still managed to clinch 3rd thanks to Lady Tossers 1-2 loss to Shipwrecks. MEE ladies consolidated their previously secured second place by beating BH ladies 2-1.

Back at the top of the table again are Soweto Slingers following a 5-1 success at Nobblers, with a welcome return to form for John Donovan, as he hit a 140 in 4 high scores. Nibblers gained some revenge beaten Avengers 2-1 in a close match.

Equalisers ended their season with a 5-1, 2-1 win over Fintas Flyers, but not before Dave Viner provided Martin Downey with his first win in 22 games. Buoyed by this feat, Martin then proceeded to spark a Flyers revival with another win 3 days later, when he single handedly pulled his side back from 0-3 down against Menage A Trois to earn a 3-3 draw.

Mike Simms recorded a 140 before Mat ladies tripped Fintas Floosies 2-1. The Flyers celebrations were cut short however, when they discovered that Dinar Soars had beaten Rondels 4-2 to confine them to the wooden spoon position.

Cliff Lindley finally made his 140 trophy in his last game, and Wendy Lindsey as a sub in the men's match, also achieved the same score and a notable family double. In the final game Shower of Tossers edged Shipwrecks 4-2 in a hard fought contest.

## Dutch rider wins 13th leg

JACA, Spain, May 7. (AP): Mathieu Hermans of the Netherlands won the 13th leg of the 44th Tour of Spain cycling race yesterday in which West German Rider Raymond Dietzen was seriously injured when he fell in an untimed time trial.

Omar Hernandez of Colombia kept the yellow jersey of the overall leader of the 22-day, 3,655-kilometre (2,266-mile) race that he has worn for the last eight legs.

Hermans, a member of the Spanish Caja rural Spanish team, covered the 99 miles run between Benasque and Jaca, including two second-class peaks, in 3 hours, 54 minutes and 35 seconds.

Hermans' average speed was 41.1 kilometres (25.4 miles) per hour.

Dietzen was hospitalised in Pamplona with a possible concussion and serious head injuries suffered when he fell from his bicycle midway through the leg in a dark tunnel, officials said.

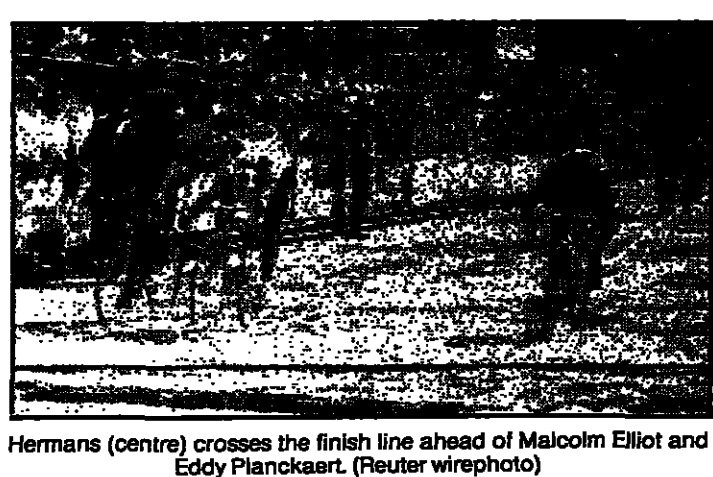
The spill occurred when Dietzen was passing through the 580-metre (2,244-foot) tunnel under the second-class Cote de la Peña.

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Hermans (centre) crosses the finish line ahead of Malcolm Elliot and Eddy Planckaert. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Arsenal open gap at top

### Darlington drop out of League

LONDON, May 7. (Reuters): Substitute Martin Hayes swept Arsenal eight points ahead of defending champions Liverpool at the top of the English soccer First Division yesterday with a goal which brought a 1-0 away win over struggling Middlesbrough.

Hayes had been on the pitch barely three minutes when he netted 20 minutes from the end to break the deadlock and give Arsenal three valuable points after Middlesbrough reserve goalkeeper Kevin Poole had foiled a number of earlier chances.

Arsenal goalkeeper John Lukic punted a long ball up field, Alan Smith headed on and Hayes, who had come on for Paul Merson, just beat Poole to the ball and prodded it home.

Arsenal lead with 72 points from 35 games and their forthcoming clash with Liverpool at Anfield in one of their last three matches could well decide the destination of the title.

Norwich, surprise leaders for much of the first half of the season, beat FA cup finalists Everton 1-0 to collect their first League victory since March 27 and squeeze back into third position above Nottingham Forest.

Dale Gordon scored the only goal two minutes from the end but Norwich are way out of con-

tenation for the title, 11 points behind Arsenal.

Goalkeeper Bob Bolder was Charlton's second hero, saving a Dennis Wise penalty 15 minutes from the end to secure three precious points.

Five clubs — Aston Villa, Charlton, Middlesbrough, Luton and Sheffield Wednesday — are within one point of each other, six ahead of bottom-but-one West Ham.

Dean Saunders helped hoist Derby into sixth place, scoring his 19th goal of the season in the 2-1 home win over Villa.

Manchester United, who had gained only two wins in their 11 previous matches, slumped again in a 2-1 defeat at Southampton.

Neighbours Manchester City had to postpone celebrations of promotion from Division Two behind Chelsea when a penalty by Luther Blissett in the sixth minute of injury time earned Bournemouth a 3-3 draw.

But Crystal Palace, held to a 2-2 draw at Leicester, must win their last two matches by big scores to gain the second automatic promotion spot at City's expense.

While Arsenal, chasing their first League title since 1971, and perennial champions Liverpool have turned the championship into a two-horse race, the battle

against relegation is a burning issue for half a dozen clubs.

Newcastle, the one club already doomed, were subjected to demonstrations by their disillusioned fans both outside the ground and on the pitch.

Several hundred fans chanted slogans against the Newcastle board and were dispersed by mounted police outside the main entrance of the St James' Park ground before the kick-off against Millwall.

Early in the second half, while Newcastle defender Paul Sweeney was undergoing treatment for injury, a supporter ran on to the pitch and unfurled a banner reading "Sack the board." Twenty more fans ran on but were quickly dispersed by home players.

Soon afterwards, defender John Anderson scored a 52nd minute goal which earned Newcastle a 1-1 draw, cancelling out Teddy Sheringham's strike for Millwall two minutes before the interval.

West Ham, who consigned Newcastle to relegation last Wednesday, gained their third straight win and moved off the bottom rung in their fight to avoid the drop to Division Two.

Alan Dickens scored in the 15th minute in the 1-0 home victory over Luton, which compounded the relegation fears of

their vanquished opponents.

Charlton raised their morale in their familiar end-of-season struggle against relegation with a 1-0 home win over Wimbledon.

Charlton fans greeted the inclusion of goal-ally striker Carl Leaburn with groans but their jeers turned to cheers in the 12th minute when the lanky forward struck only his second goal of the season before limping off injured.

Darlington, founder members of the Third Division North in 1921, lost their League status and were relegated from the Fourth Division to the Minor Conference League after a 5-1 defeat by Scunthorpe.

Master Marksman Steve Bull Notched his 50th goal of the season — all bar one in the League — with the opener for Division Three pace-setters Wolves in a 3-2 home win over Northampton.

In Scotland, veteran striker Andy Gray scored twice in the second half to give champions Rangers a 2-1 Premier Division victory at Dundee, who had taken a 28th minute lead through Keith Wright.

Joe Miller gave Celtic a 1-0 home win over Hibernian with a second half goal.

Dunfermline, needing two points to win the First Division title, were held to a 1-1 draw by relegation-threatened Clyde.

## Serena helps Internazionale hold Juventus

ROME, May 7. (Reuters): Aldo Serena rescued Italian leaders Internazionale Milan from defeat against his old club Juventus today to keep them well ahead in the battle for the League championship.

League top scorer Serena, a Juventus striker until 1987, earned Inter a 1-1 draw in the 56th minute when he rose to a difficult cross and headed home.

Juventus went ahead after 29 minutes when Portuguese midfielder Rui Barros stormed onto a pass from Soviet playmaker Alexander Zavarov and flicked the ball past advancing goalkeeper Walter Zenga.

It was the 24th year in succession that Inter had failed to win at Juventus but with a six-point League lead and seven matches left this season they could afford to drop a point.

Dutch striker Marco van Basten scored the second goal for European Cup finalists AC Milan in their 2-1 win against Torino.



Cologne's Thomas Haessler (left) and Werder Bremen's Guenter Herrman fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Bayern edge Waldhof

BONN, May 7. (Reuters): A late goal from midfielder Olaf Thon enabled Bayern Munich to scrape a 1-0 home win over lowly Waldhof Mannheim yesterday and retain their three-point lead in the West German First Division.

Thon's headed goal came from a corner kick by Ludwig Kogl only 11 minutes from the end.

Bayern now have 42 points from 28 games but second-placed Cologne maintained their challenge with a 2-1 away victory over defending champions Werder Bremen.

Defeat almost certainly spelled the end of Werder's title hopes and they now trail six points behind Bayern in third place.

It was the first defeat at home this season for Werder and their first loss to Cologne since 1980.

Results  
Hamburg 2 Eintracht F 1  
Borussia D 0 St Pauli 1  
Werder B 1 Cologne 2  
Hanover 3 Stuttgart K 4  
VFB Stuttgart 2 Karlsruhe 0  
Borussia M 3 Bayer U 0  
Bayern Munich 1 Waldhof M 0  
Kaiserslautern 3 Bochum 0  
Bayer L 3 Nurnberg 0

## Senna speeds to easy victory in Monaco Grand Prix

Prost finishes 2nd while Modena takes 3rd position

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, May 7. (AP): World Formula One champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil led from start to finish today to capture the Monaco Grand Prix, for his second victory in the event.

Senna was timed in 1 hour, 53 minutes, 33.251 seconds for the race, shortened to 77 laps because of a restart, ahead of Alain Prost of France, also in a McLaren-Honda, 52.529 seconds behind.

Stefano Modena of Italy and Michele Alboreto were fourth and fifth, while Martin Brundle of Britain finished sixth.

It was Senna's 16th career Grand Prix victory. He and Prost now are tied for first place in the drivers standings this year with 18 points each.

Senna won the San Marino Grand Prix two weeks ago.

Senna had the pole position and got the jump on Prost right at the start. Prost stayed close for the first 20 laps until the McLaren pair began lapping cars, then traffic slowed down Prost, allowing Senna to get



Senna (left) passes by boats anchored in the Port of Monaco on his way to victory. Right: Senna and Prost, in their McLarens lead the pack at the start of the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

away.

An accident on the 35th lap between Brazil's Nelson Piquet and Andrea De Cesaris of Italy caused the distance between Senna and Prost to widen to 36 seconds. Prost had to go around them gingerly on the Right

Loew's curve as Senna sped away.

Senna often darringly passed cars, while Prost played it safe. However the Frenchman was able to get free and post two laps of under 1:26 on the 3.328-kilometre (2.068 mile) course



Senna (left) passes by boats anchored in the Port of Monaco on his way to victory. Right: Senna and Prost, in their McLarens lead the pack at the start of the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

through the twisting streets of Monte Carlo.

On the 58th lap, Prost was timed in 1:25.887, then followed it with 1:25.501 to better the mark held by Senna. Last year the Brazilian did 1:26.321 and hit 1:26.017 earlier in the race.

Senna did not respond to the challenge but consistently added to his advantage as Prost eased off the accelerator from then on.

The race was shortened by one lap to 77 laps, a total 256.256 kilometres (159.236 miles), because of a restart after Derek

Warwick's Arrows-Ford stalled on the starting grid. The cars had to take another warm-up lap after that.

Once it got started again, Senna and Prost were first and second and Brundle and Nigel Mansell of Britain were fighting for third and fourth.

Mansell's Ferrari went out on the 32nd lap when his new, semi-automatic transmission broke.

Brundle, was out on the 50th lap for a quick battery change then returned to make a gallant rush from 10th to sixth in the final laps, clocking laps of 1:26 late in the race.

Modena was the surprise of the day, finishing third after going through a round of pre-qualifications on Friday to win a spot in the regular trials that pared the cars from 30 to the final 26.

The International Auto Sports Federation, Formula One's governing body, originally planned for 25 cars to start, with Gerhard Berger on the sidelines and his Ferrari automatic qualifier position not taken up.

## Border six sends woman to hospital

ARUNDEL, England, May 7. (Reuters): A woman spectator had her nose broken today after a six-hit by Australian cricket captain Allan Border struck her in the face.

Border's lusty blow, his third six in a quickfire 66 from 49 balls, hit 42-year-old Susan Edwards full in the face during the touring team's one-day match against the Duchess of Norfolk's XI at picturesque Arundel.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Shares sale

LONDON, May 7. (Reuters): Wimbledon is to seek more than £35 million (\$60 million) in its next shares sale in order to maintain its position as the world's leading tennis tournament.

### Soviet player

MOSCOW, May 7. (Reuters): Criminal proceedings have been launched against ice hockey player Alexander Mogilyov, who has left the Soviet national team and gone to the United States, a military prosecutor was quoted as saying today.

### Italian Open

ROME, May 7. (Reuters): West Germany's Silvia Hanika has joined a rash of withdrawals from the women's Italian Open tennis championships which start tomorrow.

### Cheesnokov wins

MUNICH, West Germany, May 7. (Reuters): Soviet number six seed Andrei Chesnokov finally stopped unseeded giant-killer Martin Streda, with a 5-7 7-6 6-2 victory in the final of the Munich Open men's tennis tournament today.

### Davis Cup

NEW DELHI, India, May 7. (AP): Srinivas Vasudevan today beat South Korea's Kim Bong Soo to prevent a total Indian drubbing in the semifinal round of the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone one. Vasudevan won the second reverse singles 6-4, 6-1 to give India its only victory in the five-match tournament.

### Asylum request

CAIRO, May 7. (Reuters): Egypt has rejected an asylum request from six members of Ethiopia's soccer squad who deserted the team after a match in Cairo, a UN official said today.

### Title fight

SIRACUSA, Sicily, May 7. (Reuters): Francesco Damiani of Italy knocked out South Africa's Johnny du Plooy in the third of twelve scheduled rounds to win the newly-created World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title yesterday.

### Welsh Cup

CARDIFF, May 7. (Reuters): Neath beat Llanelli 14-13 in the rugby union Welsh Cup at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday, avenging their defeat by Llanelli in last season's final.

### Trevira Twosome

NEW YORK, May 7. (UPI): Eamonn Coghlan and Nienna Lynch posted an aggregate time of 20 minutes, 4 seconds yesterday to win the 2-mile (3.2-km) event in the 11th annual Trevira Twosome in Central Park.

### Tour de Trump

NEW PALTZ, New York, May 7. (UPI): Olympic champion Viatcheslav Etkimov of the Soviet Union beat Gert-Jan Theunisse of the Netherlands in a sprint to the finish yesterday to win the first stage of the inaugural Tour de Trump.

### Tyson stopped

ALBANY, New York, May 7. (UPI): Heavyweight boxing champ "Iron Mike" Tyson apparently can't control his lead foot. Tyson was stopped for speeding mid-morning Friday by Albany police for the second time in 10 days.

### America's Cup

NEW YORK, May 7. (UPI): The appellate division of the New York Supreme Court ruled in Friday that the America's Cup be entrusted to the New York Yacht Club pending the outcome of an appeal by the San Diego Yacht Club.

### Fast start

MODESTO, California, May 7. (UPI): Larry Myricks got a fast start toward what he hopes will be a world record in the long jump, posting the best leap this year at the 48th S and W Modesto invitational track and field meet. He jumped 8.54 metres.

## Sochaux stay in hunt for title

PARIS, May 7. (Reuters): The exciting young Sochaux side from eastern France retained their outside chance of the League title with a 2-1 away win at Montpellier yesterday which lifted them to third place.

Sochaux's win, with goals from Philippe Morin and Jean-Christophe Thomas, took them above Auxerre who fell to fourth with a 1-0 defeat away to Strasbourg.

Sochaux now have 62 points, five fewer than leaders Marseille who beat Paris St Germain 1-0 on Friday in what may well turn out to be the championship decider. The club from the capital are second on 65 points with three matches to play.

Results  
Bordeaux 0 Cannes 0  
Leval 1 Chaux 1  
Lens 1 Monaco 1  
Metz 0 Toulon 1  
Montpellier 1 Nantes 0  
Nantes 1 Sochaux 2  
Nice 0 Lille 1  
St Etienne 3 Toulouse 1  
Strasbourg 1 Auxerre 0  
Marseille 1 PSG 0



# Leconte joins Noah on casualty list for French Open

PARIS, May 7, (UPI): Henri Leconte, continuing to suffer from back ailments, has joined France's other tennis star, Yannick Noah, on the casualty list for the French Open scheduled for May 29 to June 11.

Leconte was forced to abandon an exhibition match in Nimes yesterday against Australian Jason Stoltenberg because of a ruptured disc. He had similarly forfeited a match last week in

Monte Carlo because of back troubles.

"There's a 60 per cent chance I'll withdraw," said Leconte, who has seen his fortunes and his ranking drop since reaching the men's final at the French Open last year.

I came to Nimes after my forfeit at Monte Carlo to see how I was," Leconte said. "You see the result."

Leconte added that he might have to undergo surgery to correct the problem,

which would rule out his playing at Roland Garros. He had a similar back operation in 1987.

Major surgery could end the season for Leconte, but some new techniques may sideline him only briefly, permitting him to play at Wimbledon or the US Open.

Noah, meanwhile, said he hopes to be ready for the French Open despite having suffered another in a series of injuries last Wednesday at Forest Hills.

Noah's trainer, Patrice Hagelauer, said Noah would need at least 10 days of rest to his right heel to recover.

"I would prefer he not play in Rome," Hagelauer said, referring to the Italian Open May 15-21. Noah also will likely be forced to abandon exhibition matches scheduled next week in France against American John McEnroe and Sweden's Stefan Edberg if he followed his medical advice.

## Botham will make England squad: Hick

LONDON, May 7, (Reuters): Ian Botham will be back for England this season.

That is the confident prediction of Graeme Hick, the young Zimbabwe-born batsman and Worcestershire team-mate of Botham who is staging a comeback after major back surgery.

"We have got used to him being an inspirational figure but I reckon he's going through the hardest wall of his career," said 22-year-old Hick.

"He wants to play for England this summer and I am sure by end of it he will have done so."

"He's trying very hard, possibly too hard, and it will only need one pitch and one innings to get him going again," said Hick, who himself becomes eligible for the England squad in 1991 and has scored over 40 centuries already in his short career.

Just 11 months after a serious spinal operation, 33-year-old all-rounder Botham is fighting for fitness and has already bowled more than 100 overs this season.

He has already showed some of the form that made him England's greatest all-rounder. On Thursday he made his best first-class bowling figures since 1986, with four for 53 against Lancashire at Worcester.

"His bowling is getting better and better as he gets stronger and more confident about the back," Hick said, but admitted Botham had still to recover his best batting form — he made just 17 of Worcestershire's 123 for five on Thursday.

"His batting needs a bit of time, but mainly because the wickets haven't really suited his type of strokeplay yet," Hick explained.

And inside the Worcestershire camp, Hick said, Botham's infamous recklessness has been replaced by sensible determination.

"He has come back wisely. Ian has worked incredibly hard to regain full fitness and he's now as dedicated in maintaining that level of fitness and building on it. He's even watching what he eats."

"I think he really missed being involved last season. It killed him to sit on the sidelines," said Hick.

# Lendl crushes Gilbert

## Agassi overcomes Krickstein



Lendl had an easy time

NEW YORK, May 7, (Reuters): Top seed Ivan Lendl crushed Brad Gilbert 6-0, 6-1, yesterday to set up a semifinal showdown with third seed Andre Agassi at the \$602,500 Tournament of Champions at Forest Hills.

Lendl, who has not lost to Gilbert in 15 career meetings, never gave the American Olympic bronze medalist a chance to get into the match.

The Czechoslovak world number one, whose clay court game has improved immensely with each match here, was up 6-0, 2-0 before the seventh-seeded Gilbert finally won his sole game.

Defending champion Agassi overcame a second set lapse to defeat sixth seeded fellow American Aaron Krickstein 6-1, 2-6, 6-3.

The 22-minute first set was all Agassi, who defeated Krickstein in the semifinals here last year.

Agassi lost just one point on his serve and broke the 14th-ranked Krickstein three times — twice at love.

"When I started off I was playing some of the best tennis I ever played," said the fifth-ranked Agassi.

Krickstein grabbed the momentum in the second set as he began to serve with more authority and score with shots to Agassi's backhand.

"Early in the second set my back stiffened up on me and I couldn't go to my left side so it was hard to hit my backhand,"

said Agassi, who has been extended to three sets in all three of his matches this week.

Krickstein won five straight games from 3-2, at one point winning 15 consecutive points, to take the second set and a 2-0 lead into third.

The tide turned back in Agassi's favour two games later, however, when Krickstein double faulted while serving for 3-1.

Agassi capitalised on Krickstein's error by converting his fifth break opportunity of the game to level the set 2-2.

"That was a big game psychologically to lose," Krickstein admitted.

From that point Agassi's rhythm and confidence returned as he began moving the much-slower Krickstein around the court to set up winners.

In the other half of the draw, eighth-seeded American Michael Chang held off a determined comeback effort by 15th-seeded Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay to win 6-4, 6-7, 6-2.

Filippini fought back from 2-5 down to force a second set tiebreak, which he won 7-2.

The 22-ranked Chang then returned to his earlier form and controlled the deciding set of the baseline duel.

In the semifinals, the speedy 17-year-old will face Peru's Jaime Yzaga who beat Diego Perez of Uruguay 6-7 (4-7), 6-0, 6-2.

## Jones hits 170 ... and apologises

WESTBROMWICH, May 7, (Reuters): Dean Jones dashed off a century of devastating power on Thursday as Australia launched their tour in sparkling style — and then apologised.

The 28-year-old Victorian crashed 170 from just 101 balls against a League Cricket Conference side containing four bowlers with Test experience.

But delighted though Jones was with his effort, which led the tourists to a winning 326 for three for their 55 overs, his first words back in the pavilion were: "Sorry lads."

Jones was apologetic for having monopolised the crease. But his inability to get himself out and give the other batsmen some practice was not for the want of trying.

He threw his bat at almost every delivery after reaching 50. But instead of finding a fielder, he just kept on hitting sixes. 11 of them in all, as well as 16 fours.

At the height of his onslaught Jones hammered 122 off only 49 balls, including 29 from an over by Sri Lankan all-rounder Athula Samarasekera.

Jones was equally harsh on Indian spinner Mandeep Singh whose 10 overs cost 88.

Geoff Marsh, leading the side after Allan Border had opted not to play, also cracked a century as he and Jones put on 244 for the second wicket in 29 overs.

The opener's 101 came off 146 deliveries with a six and eight fours.

With paceman Merv Hughes claiming two early wickets, the League side managed only 161 for five by the end of their 55 overs.

Former Australian Test all-rounder Simon O'Donnell, playing for the League XI, contributed 52 to an unbeaten partnership of 106 with Mike Ingham, who made 56, but that still left the tourists with a handsome 165-run victory to open their tour.

## Novotna opts out of final

HAMBURG, West Germany, May 7, (Reuters): West German world number one Steffi Graf won the Hamburg women's tennis tournament today without hitting a ball after her Czechoslovak opponent JANA Novotna dropped out of the final with an injury.

The 20-year-old Novotna injured a ligament in her right ankle in a fall during her semifinal win yesterday over Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez and failed a late fitness test before today's final.

The number six seed decided to rest the ankle ahead of this week's Italian Open and the French Open at the end of the month.



Baltimore Orioles Larry Sheets turns away and throws his bat as he is hit by a wild pitch thrown by Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Mark Langston in an American League baseball game. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Mets outlast Astros

NEW YORK, May 7, (AP): Howard Johnson's two-run homer yesterday helped David Cone and the New York Mets beat Houston 2-1.

Clancy, 1-2, pitched well enough to win this one, but Cone pitched just a little bit better.

Cone, 3-2, gave up five hits, struck out eight and walked three in his second complete game, the only two by the Mets this season.

Last Saturday, he was chased by Houston after allowing seven runs in 2-1/3 innings at the Astrodome.

Len Dykstra led off the third with a single and Johnson followed with his sixth homer of the season. On Thursday, Johnson homered in the 10th inning to give New York a 3-2 victory over Cincinnati.

**Giants 9, Cardinals 0**  
Rick Reuschel pitched six shutout innings for his 199th career victory and the San Francisco Giants crushed the St. Louis Cardinals 9-0.

Reuschel, 5-2, gave up five hits, struck out three and walked two. He has allowed just one earned run in his last 22 innings.

Mike Lacoss finished with three scoreless innings, giving up one hit, for his third save.

**Reds 7, Phillies 4**

Todd Benzinger hit a go-ahead single in the fifth inning and Paul O'Neill and Ron Oester drove in two runs each as the Cincinnati Reds rallied past the Philadelphia Phillies 7-4.

O'Neill doubled home two first-inning runs off Larry McWilliams, 1-2. Joel Youngblood had four hits for Cincinnati.

**Braves 13, Expos 3**  
Andres Thomas drove in five runs, Jody Davis drove in four and Lonnie Smith and Ron Cant each homered as Atlanta unleashed a 19-hit attack and crushed Montreal 13-3.

The Braves extended their winning streak to four games, the team's longest since August 1987.

**Results**

American League		National League	
California	5	Toronto	4
Detroit	6	Oakland	3
Milwaukee	1	Kansas City	0
Boston	7	Texas	0
1st - Seattle	2	Baltimore	1
2nd - Seattle	6	Baltimore	5
New York	5	Chicago	2
Minnesota	at Cleveland	postponed - rain.	
National League		American League	
New York	2	Houston	1
San Francisco	9	St. Louis	0
Cincinnati	7	Philadelphia	4
Atlanta	13	Montreal	3
Los Angeles	3	Chicago	0
San Diego	4	Pittsburgh	2

## Richards fined and reprimanded for breach

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, May 7, (Reuters): Viv Richards has been severely reprimanded by the West Indies cricket authorities for publicly confronting an opponent during the fourth Test against India earlier this week.

The West Indies captain was fined \$250 suspended for 12 months, but acquitted of a charge of disagreeing with the umpire.

Richards pointed his bat at wicketkeeper Kiran More after a controversial decision to give him out caught behind on the third day of the fourth Test in Kingston, Jamaica, last Sunday.

"The incident sparked angry scenes among spectators who held up play for 25 minutes."

A statement signed by the executive secretary of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control, Steve Camacho, said Richards had been "severely reprimanded ... particularly in the light of his responsibility as the West Indies captain."

Richards apologised for his behaviour after the match which West Indies won to complete a 3-0 series victory.

## Lamb slams fastest ton

LONDON, May 7, (Reuters): England batsman Allan Lamb lashed the fastest century of the season to lead Northamptonshire to a thrilling one-wicket win over Leicestershire on the third day of their four-day county cricket match yesterday.

Lamb reached his century from just 18 balls, hitting 19 fours in the process, and went on to make a brilliant 148 before being bowled by seamer Jonathan Agnew. That left Northamptonshire on 233 for six, still 41 short of victory.

Agnew, who finished with four for 80, made them fight all the

way and Northants still needed two runs when the ninth wicket fell.

However Winston Davis then settled the issue by driving Chris Lewis to the extra cover boundary.

Essex went to the top of the championship table by crushing Derbyshire by an innings and 212 runs at Chelmsford as England all-rounder Derek Pringle was once more among the wickets.

He finished with four for 63 and England team-mate Neil Foster celebrated his 27th birthday with three for 72 as Derby were bundled out for 197.



## Street marathon

More than 20,000 Yugoslavs, varying in age from teenagers to white-haired veterans, took part in the traditional Belgrade street marathon on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)



# Discover gold

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.



## Nashwan triumphs in English 2,000 Guineas

NEWMARKET, England, May 7. (Reuters): Nashwan, backed from 40-1 to 3-1 favourite, won the English 2,000 Guineas horse racing classic yesterday for wheelchair-bound trainer Dick Hern and his 46-year-old jockey Willie Carson.

Nashwan took up the running two furlongs (400 metres) from home in the one mile (1.6 km) race and held off the determined challenge of American Cash Asmussen on Exbourne (10-1) by a length.

The 9-1 chance Danchill, the mount of Pat Eddery, finished half a length away in third in the 14-strong field.

Next month's English Derby has always been Nashwan's long-term objective and a month ago the 2,000 Guineas was not on the agenda.

But Nashwan worked so well in training that Hern and owner Hamdan Al Maktoum decided to let the colt take his chance at Newmarket.

The horse responded with a fine performance, shuffling off the lack of a preparatory racecourse outing this year in fine style.

It was the fourth 2,000 Guineas triumph for

Carson and the 15th English Classic victory for Hern, still in a wheelchair after a hunting accident four-and-a-half years ago.

After his success Nashwan was quoted 5-2 favourite for the Derby run at Epsom on June 7. A confident Hern asked: "Who will beat him?"

Vincent O'Brien's Irish rider Saratogan, the second favourite at 7-2, trailed in ninth, two places ahead of 5-1 chance Shaadi, the chief hope of Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai, who won Thursday's 1,000 Guineas for fillies with Musical Bliss.

## Phoenix rout Golden State in opener

PHOENIX, May 7. (AP): Phoenix Suns rookie guard Dan Majerle, a distant runner-up to Golden State's Mitch Richmond in this year's NBA Rookie of the Year race, has earned himself a little satisfaction.

Tom Chamber scored 13 of his 25 points in a lopsided third quarter yesterday and Majerle outscored Richmond 22-12 as the Suns routed the Warriors 130-103 in the opening game of their Western Conference semifinal playoff series.

"Majerle doesn't get the recognition because he's out there playing defence and getting loose balls," Phoenix coach Cotton Fitzsimmons said. "Dan doesn't score 20 points every game, but he's a great player. He and Richmond were teammates on the US Olympic team last summer, so they know each other well."

Richmond, who averaged 22 points during the regular season and 25.7 in Golden State's first-round playoff sweep over Utah, hit just five of 14 field goals in 32 minutes and was held to two points in the second half.

## Sunday Silence wins

### Easy Goer 2nd in Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 7. (Reuters): Sunday Silence, who almost died at birth, beat odds-on favourite Easy Goer by two and 1/2 lengths to win the 115th Kentucky Derby yesterday.

Awe Inspiring, Easy Goer's stablemate, was third in the race for the famous garland of roses and this year's first-place prize of \$574,200.

Pat Valenzuela, 26, won his first derby as he steered Sunday Silence, the 3-1 second favourite.

Sunday Silence's victory in the mile and 1/4 (10 furlong) race came over a muddy track on a windy day in temperatures of seven degrees Centigrade.

The defeat of Easy Goer continued the jinx of derby favourites, who have failed to win this decade. The last favourite to win was Spectacular Bid in 1979.

At two minutes five seconds, yesterday's derby was the slowest since 1958, the last time the track was rated muddy. The jockey in that derby who rode winner Tim Tam was Ismael (Milo) Valenzuela, the uncle of yesterday's winning jockey.

The start of the derby was delayed by nine minutes because Triple Buck had to return to the paddock to replace a shoe.

Houston, who went off at 5-1, took the early lead, with Sunday Silence settling into a forward position as the 15 horses bolted from the gate.

Easy Goer, who went off at the 4-5 favourite, ran fifth around the first turn, about where he was expected to be to stay in contention.

Sunday Silence and Dansil bumped going around the first turn, with Sunday Silence settling into fourth place.

Houston kept the lead for the first mile, where he was one and 1/2 lengths ahead of 47-1 shot Northern Wolf, who finished sixth.

Easy Goer's jockey, Pat Day, whipped his mount for the first time this year on the far turn and the chestnut colt responded but could not make up the difference.

"He came on enough to be second," Day said. "But it wasn't his performance. It wasn't his race."

At the mile pole, Sunday

Silence was third. The three-year-old colt, who nearly died of colic (an intestinal disorder) when he was born, made his move entering the stretch. Easy Goer had dropped to sixth by then.

The crowd of 122,653 roared as Easy Goer laboured to catch Sunday Silence, who was swerving as he pounded down the stretch. But Sunday Silence proved too strong.

"He listened to the crowd in the stretch," Valenzuela said of Sunday Silence's zig-zagging. "He was reacting to the crowd."

Sunday Silence paid \$8.20 for a \$2 wager.

Sunday Silence, put up for auction twice by co-owner Charles Whittingham but bought back because the price was not high enough, now takes him at the Preakness and Belmont Stakes, the last two legs of US horseracing's triple crown.

"If ever a horse can go all the way, this one can," Valenzuela said. "He's just learning. He ran a little green today, just in and out a little bit. He'll be another triple crown winner."



Valenzuela rides Sunday Silence (centre) to victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Korobchinsky clinches title

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, May 7. (AP): Igor Korobchinsky edged fellow Soviet Valentin Mogilyi to win the men's all-around title yesterday in the European Gymnastics Championships.

Competing before a spare crowd at the Globe Arena, Korobchinsky totaled 58.10 points after a consistent performance in the six events. The 20-year-old champion topped two events, the opening floor exercise and the vault.

Mogilyi, who also was runner-up in the 1985 European and a reserve in last year's summer Olympics in Seoul, collected 58.05 points after a disappointing start in the floor exercise, where he failed to make the top 10.

## Hattamore reigns supreme

THE final three races of the "Mad Hatters" Laser Series were held last Friday. The race series was sponsored by Dev and Tam Clark introducing mid-week events into the calendar for the month of April.

With the exception of the first two races, the series was sailed in generally light conditions giving newcomers a gentle introduction to the Laser racing scene and proving frustrating for the heavy weather specialists.

Mike Hattamore once again demonstrated his superiority in competitive dinghy sailing to take maximum points with 12 wins from 15 starts. First in the Handicap Competition and runner up overall was Pat Berry sailing consistently well to record 2 wins and 5 second places.

New member Jim Gould sailing in his first Laser series at Messilah Beach took the Handicap Runner-up Trophy.

Jim's present form, and recent acquisition of a new boat, make him a strong contender for the Summer Series.

In less than 12 months Messilah Beach Laser Club has become the centre for competitive dinghy sailing in Kuwait. New members initially attracted by the simplicity of the Laser soon become hooked on the challenge of racing in a one-design fleet where results are down to individual skill and effort.

The Colenutt Open Dinghy Race on May 18/19 at Fahahel promises to see the largest single class turnout ever seen in Kuwait with over 20 Lasers expected to compete in the four races. For more details call Ken Balman on 5624111.

## Williams and Gao capture diving titles

INDIANAPOLIS, May 7. (Reuters): The Chinese, already team champions, continued to dominate the World Cup Diving Championships yesterday but American Wendy Williams broke their monopoly by winning the women's platform final.

Olympic women's springboard champion Gao Min and Tan Liangde, twice the men's Olympic silver medalist, won the other two individual titles at stake.

The five-day meet, which drew divers from 20 nations, was to conclude with three more individual titles this evening — the men's 1-metre springboard and 10-metre platform, and the women's 3-metre platform.

Gao led all the way to claim the women's 1-metre title with 277.23 points. Her teammate, Yu Xialing, was second and Irina Lashko of the Soviet Union third.

"I did very good," said Gao, who feels more comfortable in the 3-metre event. "The 1-metre is not my main event, but I was quite satisfied with my performance," she said.

The two other champions claimed victory on their final effort.

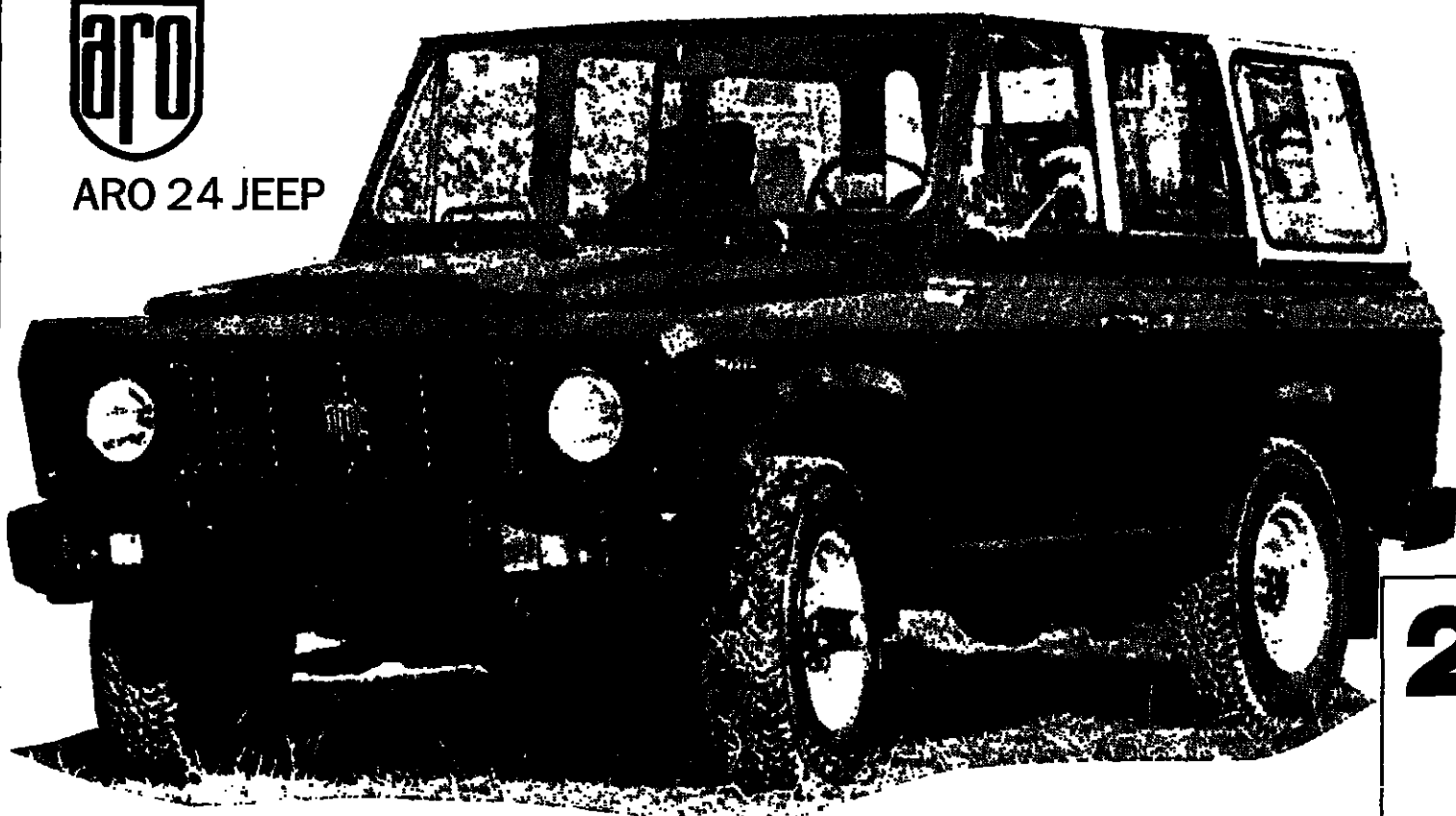
Tan scored 430.38 points, including 81.60 on his last dive, an inward 3-1/2 somersault in tuck position, to beat American Kent Ferguson and Albin Killat of West Germany.

Tan's compatriot, Li Deliang, was leading but placed fourth when he missed his last dive — the same one that won Tan the title.

Williams, winner of three US platform championships, tallied 257.91 points in the 10-metre event, scoring 69.72 points on her last dive, an inward 2-1/2 somersault in pike position.

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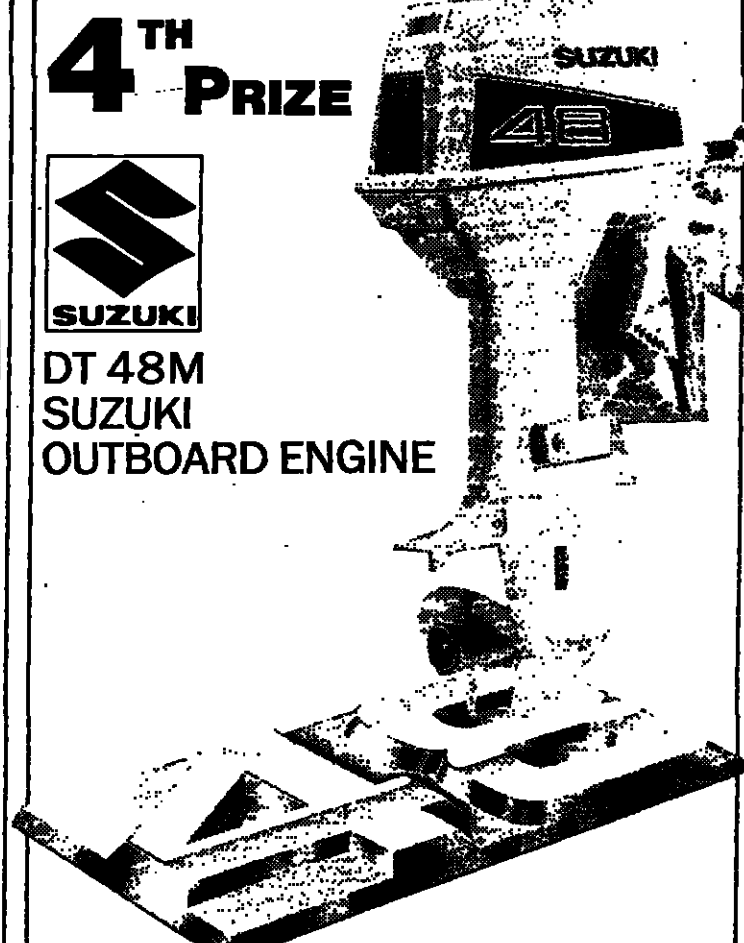
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Published by:  
Dar Al-Seyassah

Editor-in-Chief  
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Editorial Officer  
Airport Road, Sharwaah  
P.O. Box 2270,  
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex:  
27332 KT

Telephones:  
4813566 (main lines)

Advertising:  
4816326/7

Annual Subscriptions:  
Individuals KD 45/-  
Companies and Official  
Departments KD 75/-  
(small charges extra for  
overseas subscribers)